Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-074 *19 April 1989*

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Foreign Ministers Meet on Latin American Debt

LD1504210989 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The foreign ministers of the EEC and of the Group of Eight held a meeting in Granada with the aim of boosting relations between Europe and Latin America. The meeting took place in an atmosphere of satisfaction over the extent of agreement about external debt. Here is correspondent Jose Manuel Martin Meden in Granada:

[Meden] The European-Latin American meeting in Granada has ended with Latin American satisfaction over having spoken clearly and with a single voice, and Spanish concern over the ambiguity and lack of consensus in the EEC which at the moment prevents an urgent joint Community response to the Latin American request for economic, commercial, and financial cooperation to alleviate the weight of the debt which mortgages the new democracies. There is already an initial agreement as a starting point for a general resolution on the debt, which the Spanish Government hopes to obtain in June, at the conclusion of its 6-month term in the EEC presidency. Here is Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, the Spanish foreign minister:

[Begin Fernandez Ordonez recording] There is a clear awareness by the European Community, not just for ethical or political reasons, but because of a concept of common safety, of shared safety, or of interdependence. Second, it has been realized that the problem is serious and that it is necessary to act. Third, a positive assessment has been made of the Brady plan. While being aware that many problems remain and it is necessary to work on them, there is nevertheless a more advanced position on this aspect than that which existed a few months ago. There is also the idea that a number of general principles or a general framework would be appropriate, without forgetting pragmatism and taking things case by case, but there is no doubt that it is necessary, (?and sketching out) what could be a policy, if one might describe it that way. [end recording]

This was the response to the speech which Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo made as the Latin American spokesman, denouncing the fact that the international financial system is at the service of the foreign debt of the wealthiest democracy, but also the country with the greatest debt—the United States—whose foreign debt is double the total of that of Latin America and the Caribbean. [passage omitted]

Further on Regional Debt

PY1704004889 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 16 Apr 89 p 2

[Text] (NA-AFP)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo asked his European Community counterparts yesterday to work out an "urgent" solution to the Latin American foreign debt crisis.

Caputo, who spoke on behalf of the Group of Eight Latin American nations at a meeting of foreign ministers in Granada, Spain, added that the current financial system was squeezing developing Latin American economies.

"What has happened is that the international financial market has not yet been able to deal with the foreign debt situation of the developing countries because up until now it has been working exclusively to satisfy the insatiable needs of one privileged debtor (the United States), which hands out debt receipts in its own money at the rhythm of one billion (1,000 million) dollars every three days," Caputo said.

He added that the riots which took place in Caracas earlier this year were a direct result of this unjust system and he warned that what occurred in Caracas would happen again, because "this has become a regional phenomena in poor countries."

"How much poverty can liberty tolerate?" Caputo asked. In turn he expressed the need for a world-wide solution to the problem in line with the decision made by the Soviet Union and the United States to limit medium range nuclear weapons and to downscale regional conflicts. "The economic development of our countries is the final barrrier that we must overcome," he said.

The Latin American ministers, from Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Mexico and Colombia, agreed that the US debt reduction programme proposal known as the Brady plan was a step in the right direction, but consensus on the best course of action among European nations remained elusive.

"In relation to what has gone before, this plan represents remarkable progress," said Uruguayan Foreign Minister Luis Barrios Tassano, while Caputo added that "it was a serious proposal from a serious source, but certain countries represented here have doubts about it."

Meanwhile, EC President Jacques Delors told reporters after the meeting that the 12-nation European trading bloc agreed on the urgency of dealing with Latin American's foreign debt. But he said there was disagreement among European nations on some key isues. Some finance ministers, for instance, object that the Brady plan would transfer too many risks from private banks to international public financial institutions.

"The banks have earned a lot of money lending to Latin America, and if they want to support the principle of the free market, they will have to assume their responsibility," Delors said.

Under the Brady plan the administration of US President George Bush projects cutting the debt of 39 nations, including major Latin America debtors, by 20 percent over the next three years with financing of about 12 billion dollars each from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Caputo Announces Meeting

PY1804165489 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1331 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has stated in a telephone conversation from New York that in his capacity as UN General Assembly chairman he is preparing an international meeting scheduled for 1990. This meeting will be aimed at reaching "points of agreement to unblock the political decision to address the foreign debt issue in a different way."

Caputo said that during a meeting in Spain "developed and developing countries for the first time sat down together to discuss the economic problem, especially the foreign debt."

"This meeting was held between the EEC and the Latin American group known as the 'Group of Eight,' which is becoming a valid spokesman," Caputo added.

Caputo also confirmed that he talked with British Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe, but he did not say whether they discussed the Malvinas issue. [passage omitted]

Returning to international affairs, Caputo said that "issues related to development and foreign debt problems" were discussed at meetings held in the United States and Spain.

In the United States, Caputo stated that the United Nations has ordered him to begin negotiations concerning development and the problem of the foreign debt "in order to prepare an international meeting scheduled for 1990."

Caputo said: "I will summon a group of dignitaries to negotiate with several countries to see if there are points of agreement that can unblock the political decision to address the foreign debt in a different way."

Meeting Held To Create Amazon Parliament

PY1704211089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Senate President Romualdo Biaggi this morning dedicated the preliminary sessions for the creation of the Amazon parliament. The ceremony was held in the session hall of the Senate, with the participation of representatives from eight countries.

With a session of the Peruvian Senate, the preliminary meeting was held this morning to establish the Amazon parliament. Congressional delegations from Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, and Venezuela were present at the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to study and plan the establishment of the Amazon parliament, based on the cooperation treaties for the development of these nations approved on 27 August 1978 and ratified on 30 March 1986 by the Peruvian congress.

The creation of the Amazon parliament was proposed by Hector Vargas Haya, chairman of the Peruvian Chamber of Deputies, who said this parliament will help strengthen the efforts of these nations for social and economic development of the Amazon subregion.

The eight Amazon region countries have more than 200 million inhabitants, that is, more than 85 percent of the South American population.

The preliminary meetings for the establishment of the Amazon parliament will end on 19 April.

Garcia Addresses Parliament

PY1804041089 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Speech by Peruvian President Alan Garcia to members of the Amazon Parliament, at Government House in Lima; no date given—recorded]

[Text] I want to thank all of you representatives and parliamentarians for coming to Government House, and congratulate you on the establishment of the Amazon parliament. We are fully convinced that integration is Latin America's most important long-term project. The continent's integration must be a priority issue for all democratic, progressive, and popular political parties in Latin America. Our countries are impoverished and indebted. Integration is the only way to someday break the vicious circle of the debt.

We have been analyzing the proposal made by U.S. Treasury Secretary Brady. His proposal, like the one made by Mr Baker, represents the continuation of indebtedness, the continuation of the Latin American debt's vicious circle. These proposals always entail recession, or adjustments as they are called in economic language. In other words, they entail the reduction of Latin America's consumption in order to be able to pay debts or to contract new ones.

We believe that Latin American integration is the only way to solve the foreign debt problem and to avoid contracting new debts in the future. We must reject recession and adjustment, and we must welcome integration.

Latin America's great chances of growing and increasing its consumption lie in its integration, and it does not need to adapt to foreign patterns to obtain loans to pay back those loans contracted previously. Integration is not only a dream becoming a reality through our efforts, it is a current need from the economic point of view.

We consider any step taken toward integration as being important. Some months ago here we institutionalized the Latin American Parliament that was created many years ago. We must celebrate the establishment of the Amazon parliament because these organizations will become the grounds for our countries' true integration in the future. Integration will replace bilateral, isolated, and impoverishing treatment. This is the true historical project that each and every one of our countries seeks to achieve through integration.

I hope for the establishment of the Amazon parliament so that the representatives of these nations will be able to directly deal with the serious problems regarding the exploitation of our Amazon region.

Within the next few days, especially on 6 May, the presidents of countries that are owners of the Amazon region will meet in Manaus, and I am using the term owners of the Amazon region because I understand that Latin America is the owner of the Amazon region, and thus sovereign in its decisions regarding the integrated exploitation of that region for the benefit of mankind and to promote culture.

After carrying out a mistaken and inhuman industrial process in several zones, and after a military development which caused so much harm to human history, it would be nonsense to think that Latin America will keep this tremendous wealth unused to try to correct the mistakes of others.

We must clearly say that the others must correct their own mistakes, that we are not responsible for the weakening of the ozone layer, as is being said, but that the way of life [preceding three words in English] of the most developed countries is responsible for it—the governments which have not done enough to moderate consumption habits and technology. It is not possible to pretend that after nuclear explosions, the indiscriminate use of freon gas, and the consumption of products that damage nature, Latin America will repair everything by leaving, as you said, Mr President, its most important wealth—the Amazon region—in a shopwindow.

I am happy that representatives of congress are holding this meeting to pave the road for the meeting we presidents will hold, thus showing us the path to follow and the answers we must give to the most developed countries.

I have heard with astonishment how the industrialized countries speak about the Amazon region, as if they were dealing with the Persian Gulf, as if it were their own interest and something they could use for their own benefit, and I think this is a matter of continental sovereignty. This is very important, because, thanks to these ideas, we see the emergence of an identity, the integration awareness, just as the foreign debt issue has united us.

Thus, integration is the only hope for the future of our peoples. I would very much like to follow the conclusions of this meeting, and to inform in Manaus, on 6 May, the Latin American presidents who will meet there, about this important event involving the creation of the Amazon parliament.

I am certain that this parliament will deal with the Amazon issue and many others, for the benefit of our America. I want to congratulate you, and thank you for being here. I also want to convey my best wishes for the success of this meeting. Thank you. [applause]

Nicaragua Proposal on Contra Demobilization
PA1704025789 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2121 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 16 Apr (REUTER)—Victor Hugo Tinoco, Nicaraguan foreign affairs vice minister, today said the Central American deputy foreign ministers will be meeting in Guatemala this month to examine a Nicaraguan proposal suggesting that the United Nations and the OAS participate in the contra demobilization.

Tinoco reported that Nicaragua presented the proposal during a deputy foreign ministers meeting in Managua on Thursday and Friday. Honduran opposition, however, prevented the proposal from being examined.

Tinoco said: "Honduras' attitude is part of the (George) Bush administration's plan to keep the contras alive until February 1990, instead of the 90 days agreed to during the 14 February summit in El Salvador."

Tinoco explained that the deputy foreign ministers have scheduled a meeting for 27-28 April in Guatemala to discuss Nicaragua's proposal, which involves appointing an international commission for support and verification to coordinate the contra demobilization. This commission would be composed of the UN and OAS secretaries and would have the support of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, while addressing a Sandinist youth meeting last night, said the new U.S. Administration's plan endangers the progress he and the other Central American presidents have made toward peace.

During their mid-February summit, the Central American leaders agreed to a 90-day deadline to draft a plan for dismantling anti-Sandinist rebel bases in Honduras. In addition, Nicaragua promised to hold elections before 25 February 1990 and to promote democratic reforms.

Sandinist newspapers today published excerpts of a government project for media regulation. The Legislative Assembly will begin debating electoral code reforms and freedom of the press tomorrow.

Cuba

MiG-21 Crashes; Casualties Undetermined

FL1804173889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Our correspondent Ardelis Pablo will now inform you about the plane accident that occurred in Holguin.

At approximately 0900 [1300 GMT] this morning, a MiG-21 from the Holguin air base crashed into a downtown street in this city, where to date there is still no official confirmation on the number of victims. However, it was evident that the pilot's body was completely destroyed along with the plane.

Eyewitnesses informed Radio Rebelde that it looked like the plane had broken down, because it had the lights on as it tumbled down at low altitudes, and it was trying to reach unpopulated areas in Loma de la Cruz.

The quick intervention by firemen and other organizations quickly controlled the start of a fire that began immediately after the military aircraft crashed. The plane totally destroyed house No 88 on Cardet Street, located between [name indistinct] and Cuba, near the sports arena. Although it has not been confirmed, it looks like the house was uninhabited. However, there was also damage to houses Nos 111 and 113 on Cardet Street, where cleanup is now being done.

Investigations continue and we are awaiting the official report with additional details.

Pilot Killed, 4 Wounded

PA1804185189 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1751 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Havana, 18 Apr (EFE)—A Soviet-style Cuban-made MiG-21 crashed today in the city of Holguin in Holguin Province, 780 km from Havana, killing at least the pilot, official sources have reported.

A report from the National News Agency (AIN) states that the Revolutionary Air Force (FAR) plane crashed into and destroyed a house and seriously damaged two nearby homes. Other eyewitness reports indicate that the plane, which was based in Holguin, was flying at a low altitude with its lights on before it crashed into a home and hit two other houses with its tail.

According to AIN, "at least one person was killed, presumably the pilot, and four others were seriously wounded. Only one person is in the hospital with serious burns."

The wounded were taken to the provincial "Vladimir Ilyich Lenin" hospital, whose director, Joaquin Garcia, did not dismiss the possibility that more people may have been injured.

According to preliminary reports, there was a possibility of even more casualties, but a nearby school was not involved in the accident.

Many rescue units, mostly from the Firemen's Corps and Civil Defense, are at the scene of the accident removing the debris in search of possible victims and clues to help determine the cause of the crash.

The FAR mostly has MiG-21 aircraft, although it has also been equipped with modern MiG-23's built in the Soviet Union.

Several Cuban fighter planes have been lost recently as a result of accidents or weather conditions. A strong hurricane destroyed two fighter planes last year that were parked at a base in Camaguey.

During military maneuvers in 1988, two MiG-21 planes collided in midair, crashing before the eyes of high-ranking military leaders, including Revolutionary Armed Forces Commander Raul Castro, who was watching the exercises from a nearby stand.

Details on Casualties

FL1804185389 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1832 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The casualties from the plane accident that occurred around 0900 [1300 GMT] this morning in Holguin are: one dead, one seriously injured, and three slightly injured. Senen Delgado is the name of the Revolutionary Armed Forces officer that was flying the MiG-21 and died in the disaster in which Rafael Varona Nieves was seriously injured with burns on 40 percent of his body. Varona Nieves is now in the intensive care unit of the Vladimir Ilich Lenin Hospital. Also hospitalized in this facility are: 8-year old (Janet Sisepupomarreo), 20-year old Luis Alvardo Cova, and Armando Ricardo, all with minor injuries.

Presently, the appropriate authorities are cleaning up the area of the accident which damaged only three houses on Jose Antonio Cardet Street, located between Prado and Cuba Streets in Holguin.

Medical Brigade Provides Services in Nicaragua

FL1804211189 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1934 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The Cuban medical brigade providing services in Bluefields, Nicaragua has played a fundamental role in the control of polio, acute diarrhea, and respiratory illnesses thanks to positive preventive work. Ernesto Sequeira Blanco, director of health of the Nicaraguan Atlantic region, noted that the population of the area, which is of low educational level, is very scattered in a predominantly rural area. This makes providing medical services difficult. Sequeira said that development plans Nicaragua is implementing for the improvement of health in the region include the training of middle- and

high-level technicians, nursing courses, and other activities. For his part, Joaquin Pina, chief of the Cuban medical brigade asserted that over 80 percent of the population of the area has a good opinion and trust in the services of the collective.

Vietnamese Youth Union Leader Arrives

FL1904015989 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Ha Quang Du, first secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee, arrived in our country this afternoon. The Vietnamese leader is visiting Cuba for the second time. This time he comes from Nicaragua, where he participated in the youth congress of the Central American nation.

Shortly after his arrival in our country, Ha Quang Du met with his Cuban counterpart, Roberto Robaina, with whom he analyzed topics of bilateral interest. The first secretary of the Central Committee of the highest group of Vietnamese youth also explained the objectives of his visit.

[Begin Ha Quang Du recording in Vietnamese with simultaneous Spanish translation] First, let me thank you for the opportunity you've given me to exchange views with the press. I've come to Cuba to visit my friends because we are unquestionably united by political and revolutionary ideals. I will work together with the UJC [Union of Young Communists] comrades. We will exchange work experiences and will look for ways to increase our working relations so that they become broader than they are now. [end recording]

Oramas Calls for Noninterference in Afghanistan

FL1804125289 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] At the United Nations, Cuba has called for the cessation of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. It also called for the unpostponable fulfillment of the Geneva agreements on that Asian country by all states that signed them.

Oscar Oramas Oliva, Cuban permanent representative to the United Nations, recalled that these agreements were signed by Afghanistan and Pakistan, with the United States and the USSR as guarantors. He pointed out that the Soviet Union has abided by the agreements with the withdrawal of its military contingent from Afghanistan. Oramas emphasized that a military solution is not valid in Afghanistan, and that everyone is certain of that. Regarding this, he said that events have proved wrong rumors that the Afghan Government in Kabul was quickly going to be ovethrown.

As a possible solution for peace, he suggested an international conference on Afghanistan be held. In the conference, differences would be sorted out and measures would be adopted to achieve just and lasting peace.

Netherlands Transportation Minister To Visit

FL1804215589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1935 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Neelie Smit-Kroes, minister of transport and communications [title as heard] of the Netherlands, will arrive in this capital on Saturday [22 April] to examine cooperation possibilities in the maritime and port spheres.

Smit-Kroes, who was bid farewell at the residence of Gustavo Mazorra, Cuban ambassador in Amsterdam [name and title as received], has been in her post since 1982 and is a leader of the Labor Party, which is part of the ruling Netherlands coalition.

The Netherlands minister will be accompanied by the president of the transportation consultation organization and former prime minister and by the secretary general of the organization. The Netherlands leader was invited by Diocles Torralba, minister of transportation and vice president of the Council of Ministers, and is reciprocating the visit paid to her country by her counterpart last year.

Another 150 Internationalists Return From Angola

FL1804145489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Another 150-member contingent of Cuban internationalists has arrived in our country from the People's Republic of Angola.

At approximately 2100 yesterday [17 April], the combatants got off the Aeroflot Soviet plane, which brought them to our country, showing with their best smile the satisfaction of having fulfilled a task. All of them were wearing the Cuba-People's Republic of Angola victory medal, and they were warmly welcomed by Division General Aberlardo Colome Ibarra, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Politburo and first vice minister of the FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and hero of the Republic of Cuba, and by Yolanda Ferrer, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, as well as by Luis Rodriguez Maurell, vice president of the Council of Ministers, among other high-ranking FAR and Ministry of the Interior chiefs and representatives of the party and mass organizations.

The dedication and heroism of these youths is evident on each one of their breasts. One hundred and six of them wear the internationalist combatant medal, first class; 71 received the Cuito Cuanavale medal; 54 received the FAR distinguished service medal; and one the Ignacio Agramonte medal.

The official welcoming ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Cacahual, a historic site and symbol of the most beautiful traditions of combat.

Castro Visits Construction Contingent, Foundry

FL1904014189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, visited today the test area of the concrete pouring process of the East-West Highway and the casting of Taino engine blocks, both at Havana's La Lisa Municipality.

At the first place, Fidel expressed interest on the dry material they use and praised the brigade's training. He referred to the 17 brigades that make up the Blas Roca Calderio contingent and characterized that type of group as the highest concept in construction.

At the foundry, the leader of the Revolution was interested in the steps needed to produce the first Taino engine block. This places Cuba as the fourth Third World nation with such a production.

Cuban Taino engines have a quality that is recognized internationally. Havana's Cuban-Soviet Friendship plant produces one six- and eight-cylinder diesel engine every 2 hours. They are used in buses, trucks, front loaders, motor pumps, and railroad cars. Production will soon be increased to one engine per hour. The assembly of national components increased to 50 percent.

The first stage of the factory's expansion will be completed by the end of the year. High horsepower engines of 10 and 12 cylinders will be produced with the installation and operation of 53 high-technology machines. Specialists of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship plant are currently working in prototypes of three- and four-cylinder engines. One of them is already in the testing phase. As soon as they are placed on the assembly line, they will be used in small vehicles such as pickup trucks and Giron Six buses.

Deputy Foreign Minister Bruguera Interview

PA1704165689 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Apr 89 p 11

["Exclusive" interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Miguel Bruguera del Valle by Roberto Fonseca in Havana on 6 April]

[Text] [Fonseca] Cuba has been depicted as a subversive factor in Latin America since the the 1960's. Do you believe this opinion has changed?

[Bruguera] Latin America has undergone a very important change. The United States is no longer omnipotent in the region although they still have the strength and political power to use blackmail to serve their own interests. In the 1960's, Cuba was expelled from the OAS and all Latin American countries, except Mexico, broke international relations with revolutionary Cuba. At that time, governments—many of them ruled by military dictatorships—closed ranks to oppose Cuba on U.S. Government orders. Of course, this is not the same situation today. Latin America is currently living a new reality and is going through a new and very positive period. For example, the Latin American countries in Geneva proved to have and maintain an independent stand on the Cuban human rights issue despite U.S. pressure and blackmail.

[Fonseca] How would you now describe Cuban-Latin America relations?

[Bruguera] We currently have ties and maintain relations with almost the entire American subcontinent. There are some countries with which we do not maintain diplomatic relations, such as Colombia. However, Cuba supported a motion presented by Colombia last year in Geneva. Our relations with Colombia are still normal. They are based on mutual respect and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs.

[Fonseca] Are there any immediate prospects of establishing diplomatic relations with Latin American countries with which you do not currently have relations?

[Bruguera] We do not maintain diplomatic relations with Pinochet's Chile or with Paraguay. We are not interested in having relations with the Pinochet regime or with the Stroessner family. There are Latin American countries known to have ties with Cuba and to maintain stands similar to ours at international organizations but that have publicly stated they do not establish official relations with us because they fear U.S. reprisals. The Dominican Republic is a good example of this. However, I believe our current ties with the Dominican Republic have been the best ones over the past 30 years.

[Fonseca] Colombian and Ecuadorean guerrillas are holding talks and negotiating with their countries' governments. How does Cuba regard these phenomena and what does it think of them?

[Bruguera] We respect the decisions made by revolutionary movements. It is up to them to decide what is necessary and it is up to us to respect them. For example, we respect the Nicaraguan leadership's decisions because we believe we have to maintain respect to be respected. We can have different opinions, criteria, and even beliefs, but we would be violating a revolutionary principle if we told someone what to do.

[Fonseca] There are some people who believe those negotiations show that the use of armed struggle to attain power is doomed to fail. Do you believe Latin America has the chance of reaching political power through elections?

[Bruguera] I believe it is up to the people to decide. It is not a matter of vaguely choosing between elections or insurrections. Even elections differ from one country to the next. Besides, it is one thing to desire something, and it is another matter to have the necessary conditions to fulfill this desire.

[Fonseca] What is Cuba's position on the Central American conflict?

[Bruguera] Our position was molded during Gorbachev's visit to Cuba. We feel the conflict must be solved through political negotiations without foreign meddling. The only interference now is that of the United States,

which continues supporting the contras to pressure Nicaragua. I think the Sandinist government has demonstrated—not only to Latin America but to the whole world—its political will to achieve peace through political means. I think the decisions that have been adopted and are currently being enforced in Nicaragua are a revolutionary example set by that country's leadership; however, we have not seen a similar attitude by the U.S. Government, which insists on the impossible: defeating the Nicaraguan people.

[Fonseca] Do you believe the bipartisan agreement means an end to the use of force in international relations?

[Brugera] There certainly is a new situation; however, I would like to see a bipartisan agreement calling for respect for Nicaragua's sovereignty and independence. We would like to see the two U.S. political parties agree on that rather than on continuing to aid a military force that has been defeated and is composed of former pro-Somoza military men and CIA agents.

[Fonseca] The South African Government has murdered hundreds of civilians and South-West African People's Organization guerrillas. Do you think this violation may lead Cuba to reconsider its decision to withdraw its troops from Angola?

[Brugera] The situation that has arisen in Namibia during the last few days is a source of great concern to us. The use of South African troops by the United Nations is unacceptable to Cuba and the African countries. They colonized Namibia and cannot act as a peacekeeping force. However, despite this violation, Cuba will continue to abide by the agreements to the letter, and the last Cuban soldiers will leave Angola in 1991 as stipulated in the agreements.

Rodriguez Attends Opening of Lecture Hall

FL1804160089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo, has attended the official opening of the Raul Prebisch lecture room for Latin American economic thought.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] No one among the thousands of economists who in our country work on the problems of the national economy, or among those who are constantly involved in the subject of Latin America, will be unhappy that we create in Cuba the Raul Prebisch lecture room. There are two reasons for this happiness. One, I think the name Prebisch, among us, gives the idea of intellectual challenge and theoretical insight associated to the most serious practical responsibility [as heard]. Secondly, the lecture room, just as it has been described by Mariza del Toro Oneida Alvarez [not further identified] is projected toward Latin America in moments when the Latin American economy demands from us permanent vigilance and flowing analysis to render solutions to the serious problems that burden it. [end recording]

The creation of the Raul Prebisch award was also announced during the event. The award and the lecture hall have the goal of empowering the efforts of researchers who are getting closer to an understanding of the problems of Latin America, and who are determined to find the faults of the economy and solutions to them.

[Begin Rodriguez recording] We are proud that a youth like (Triana) and a group of professors from other times, to which I belong, are involved in this task of creating and developing the Raul Prebisch lecture hall. Thus, this is a (?work) of deep Latin American sentiment and of high national content. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

Fernandez Opens Interferon, Biotechnology Seminar

FL1804164089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, minister of education and vice president of the Council of Ministers, has announced that the second Cuban center for biotechnological research will be inaugurated next July in Camaguey, while another one is under construction in Sancti Spiritus.

Fernandez has opened the third Cuban international seminar on interferon, the second biotechnology seminar, and the first Ibero-American congress of this branch.

He added that the centers to be inaugurated will permit greater biotechnological reasearch and more use of it in social practice.

Imported Textbooks Abandoned in Isolated Area

FL1804205589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] A surprise audit carried at El Almendro farm in Habana del Este Municipality has shown an unfulfillment of duty in the care of goods of state economic units. This is sanctioned by the current Criminal Code with imprisonment.

Over 60 containers with imported textbooks for middle and higher education and children's literature have been here for over a year without the appropriate control and security for their preservation. This has allowed looting by antisocial individuals. Up to now, no effective measures have been taken by the organization responsible for their care, the National Book Distribution Enterprise.

[Begin Alexis Morciego recording, identified by caption as technician of labor resources of the Book Sales Enterprise] Our role, according to the Cuban Book Institute, is to supply human resources or labor force such as watchmen, etc. We have not had a watchman for approximately 3 months. As you mentioned before, the area is pretty isolated, conditions are not favorable, and there is no visibility at night. [Video shows a warehouse area

with opened boxes full of books and books scattered on the floor] All this makes it difficult for someone to stay here in this area and watch it. It is evident that considering the state of abandonment and the lack of security in the area, it is very prone for what we had talked about: theft. [end recording]

Severe Drought Reported in Villa Clara

FL1904024089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The central part of the country is going through a severe drought at this time. The City of Villa Clara is having problems with its drinking water supply.

Although rain has started to fall in Villa Clara Province, the water supply for the City of Santa Clara is showing serious difficulties inasmuch as the impounding capacities, together with the installation of water treatment plants, are insufficient.

The solution to this problem lies essentially in the increase of supply sources. A program is being worked on to supply a larger volume of water to Santa Clara within a few months.

The drought had very negative effects in the city. Added to this is the constant population growth which increases demand when the aqueduct's networks continue being the same as almost a century ago when they were built. The deterioration of the pipes and crystalization of salts inside them reduces their diameter and breaks a lot of times.

In order to cover current needs, the Villa Clara capital should receive no less than 1,610 liters of water per second. Nevertheless, the two systems that provide this service only deliver some 1,100.

Everything we present in this report calls our attention to the constant need to save water. Remember that although spring rains may be plentiful, the impounding capacities of our supplying dams have a limit. This means that even though it may rain a lot, we have a limited amount of drinking water during the entire year.

Bahamas

Government Denies U.S. Congressman's Charges

FL1804234089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2326 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, April 18, CANA—The Bahamas government denied Tuesday allegations by U.S. Congressman Edward Feighan of "widespread corruption" in the Bahamas saying the country produces no drugs and devotes "14 per cent of its national budget to fight the flow" of drugs from Latin America to the United States.

"The honour and integrity of our government and its institutions is equal to that of the United states in every regard and our commitment to waging war on those who traffic in illicit drugs is unshakable," a statement from the Bahamas Information Service said.

Feighan, an Ohio congressman, told the House of Representatives that the Bush administration had chosen to turn a blind eye to a "mountain of evidence of official corruption in the Bahamas" when it decided recently to certify the country as having taken steps to eliminate corruption by government officials. He called on the U.S. to cut off the Caricom nation from any American assistance.

The Bahamas statement said the territory was a "frontline state in the fight to halt drug trafficking in the region..."

"Only last month the American ambassador in Nassau, Carol Boyd Hallett, in certifying to President Bush our commitment to this battle said the Bahamas does more to assist the United States in the war on drugs than any country in the world," it went on.

It also referred to testimony before Congress in March by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's assistant administrator, David Westrate, that the Bahamas "is clearly a success story" and that because of government cooperation drug trafficking through the Bahamas is declining.

The statement dismissed Feighan's allegations as "baseless, malicious and part of a continuing politically motivated campaign" to smear the Bahamas international image.

"Foreign legislators, who deliberately misrepresent the facts, in pursuit of private political agendas, do nothing to help the effort to stop this scourge," it said.

The statement said in a meeting in Feighan's office Thursday, Bahamas foreign Minister Charles Carter asked the congressman to provide proof to back up his charges and the "government of the Bahamas is still waiting."

Dominica

Economic, Financial Expansion Reviewed

FL1804222789 Bridgetown CANA in English 2011 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 18, CANA—With a yield of EC80 million dollars for banana exports in the first nine months of 1988, a 35.8 percent increase over the same period in 1987, an upsurge in construction, manufacturing and tourism increases, the Dominican economy has been able to sustain its expansion rate achieved in 1987, according to the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

In its economic and financial review for September 1988, just released, the report noted: "Indications are that activity in the agricultural and construction sectors, which in 1987 had provided the main impetus to growth, was sustained. Meanwhile there is also some evidence of positive growth in the tourism and manufacturing sectors over the review period."

The report said the all-important banana industry continued to benefit from improved agronomic practices and favourable market conditions in 1988, registering a 27.8 percent rise in production from 1987 to 56,619 tonnes. The year's production total was targeted for 74,000 tonnes or a 20 percent increase.

In the manufacturing sector soap exports increased by 15.8 percent, with tourism figures increasing by 4.1 percent in the first six months of the year, and cruise ship passengers by 5.6 percent.

Despite the gains however, the country registered a visible trade deficit of 27 million dollars for the first six months of 1988, a 17.4 increase over 1987. While domestic exports had increased by 37.4 percent (EC80.1 million dollars), there was, however, a 30.7 percent increase in the import bill (EC197 million).

The report noted that the country's public finances "continued to strengthen" in the first nine months with the surplus on the current account increasing by 87 percent ot EC17.6 million dollars (1 EC dol; 37 cents U.S.). Current revenue increased by 20 percent ot 88.4 million dollars, while current expenditure rose by 10.2 percent to 70.8 million.

This revenue increase was facilitated by higher collections from both tax and non-tax sources, while expenditure increases were mainly due to the 49.4 increase in payment of public debt, and increases in salaries and wages.

"The most notable feature of developments in the first nine months of the year was the upsurge in commercial bank lending activity," the ECCB report said.

Total loans outstanding rose by some 24.8 percent to 27.2 million, in contrast to declines of 5.6 percent and 22.1 percent in 1987 and 1986 respectively. Deposit growth went up by 18.9 percent (39.4 million) compared with 12 percent or 20.6 million in 1987.

Dominican Republic

*** Commercial Banking System: Annual Report, 1988**
32480108a Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 17 Feb 89 p 2 D

[Text of annual report; accompanying charts not reproduced]

[Text] Following is a discussion of developments in the private commercial banking industry in 1988, compared to 1987.

This report seeks to analyze the behavior of the private commercial banking industry in the Dominican Republic. The Reserve Bank of the Republic is excluded because, although it is an institution governed by laws and regulations which come under private law, its official character gives rise to special relationships and treatment which are distinctly different from the realities of private banking.

The serious deterioration in the foreign exchange situation since the end of 1986, prior to the implementation of the System for the Return of Foreign Exchange, noticeably affected different institutions of the financial system, both in terms of liquidity as well as solvency. This situation led to bankruptcies and mergers of some institutions, as well as reserve shortages which affected their growth.

The numerous steps taken since the end of 1986 to slow down the rapid devaluation of our currency directly affected the private banking industry. Highly restrictive actions were taken, aimed at reducing the expansion of credit operations and at accumulating greater reserves. These measures were intended to make it possible to neutralize other, expansionary developments affecting the money supply over which the Central Bank could not exercise the necessary control.

During the first half of 1988 the private commercial banking industry began to show signs of recovery through the growth of its total assets. This tendency was accentuated in the final quarter of the year. In December assets increased by about 2.5174 billion pesos, or 50.1 percent. Total assets rose from 5.0256 billion pesos at the end of 1987 to 7.543 billion pesos by the end of 1988.

This substantial growth is indicative of the achievement of these financial institutions, which have regained their important role as middlemen. They had been losing this position with the expansion of other depository institutions which had only recently been subject to regulation by the monetary authorities.

That situation means that the commercial banking industry has come out of this crisis considerably strengthened by the confidence expressed by depositers regarding the way in which it has dealt with the crisis of liquidity and solvency affecting financial institutions not regulated by special laws.

The growth of commercial banking is of the greatest importance in demonstrating the ability of the Central Bank to carry out monetary policy, as this sector, with its demand deposits and its investments, is the most sensitive to actions taken in the field of monetary and credit policy.

For these reasons it is to be hoped that the objective of the monetary authorities will be directed at stimulating increasingly greater participation by institutions which

facilitate the implementation of the objectives of monetary policy. Those actions are now seen to have been weakened by the large number of institutions, including financial groups, which manage public funds and over which it is difficult for the monetary authorities to exercise effective and timely control.

The positive impact of credit (financing investments) is measured by the increase in the production of goods and services. This impact was seriously limited by 1988, due to the fact that until June of that year private banks had earmarked 35.7 percent of the total funds they generated for the accumulation of liquid assets. By the end of 1988, out of the total of 2.5175 billion pesos by which total assets grew, private commercial banks earmarked 1.4205 billion Dominican pesos to increase their liquid assets. This increased the share of this sector of total assets from 32.0 percent in 1987 to 40.1 percent in 1988. This level of liquidity was highly convenient in strengthening the solvency of this sector.

Productive assets of the private banking industry (loans plus investments), including funds invested in FIDE [Investment Fund for Economic Development], increased by 613.5 million pesos, or 24.4 percent of the increase in total assets. This development provides evidence of the impact of the deflationary measures taken.

If estimated levels of inflation are applied to total net investments, we may deduce that the loans extended by private banks in 1988 were less than those for 1987. This factor necessarily had a negative impact on the growth of our PBI [Gross Domestic Product], which barely reached 1.0 percent, compared to 1987. In 1988 the loans portfolio amounted to 42.3 percent of total assets, compared to 49.8 percent in 1987.

It is appropriate to note the contradictory results of this restrictive policy on the money supply and the growth of domestic production, since commercial banks are middlemen between savings and the allocation of resources demanded by industrial, agricultural, commercial, and other enterprises. That is to say that, finally, the credit limitations which are imposed on commercial banks have a direct impact on the productive process, which is the ultimate objective of credit.

Total deposits, amounting to about 5.4069 billion pesos, confirmed the confidence of savers and provided a clear view of the extent to which private commercial banks regained their role as middlemen within the Dominican financial system. The growth of total deposits in 1988, amounting to 1.6214 billion Dominican pesos, was equivalent to 42.8 percent, compared to the moderate increase of 392.3 million pesos achieved by the end of 1987, which represented an increase of 11.6 percent.

Deposits are the principal source for the extension of loans under a healthy policy for administering resources received from the public, although, throughout 1988, restrictive measures ensured a decline in the proportion of their deposits which the banks extended as loans.

This percentage declined to 73.1 percent by the end of December 1987, compared to only 62.8 percent at the end of 1988. This reduction was the result of the fact that, while total deposits grew by 1.6214 billion pesos between 1987 and 1988, the investment loan portfolio only grew by 613.5 million pesos, or 38 percent of the increase in total deposits. This development took place in spite of the fact that the banks also substantially increased their capital and reserve levels.

Commercial banks strengthened during 1988, increasing both the capital paid and the reserves by 284.3 million pesos. These two accounts rose from 542 million pesos at the end of 1987 to about 826.3 million pesos by the end of 1988. It must be repeated that this increase in capitalization only served to increase solidity and not the expansion of credit.

For example, in December 1987 each peso of capital and reserves was used to extend 4.6 pesos in loans. By December 1988 this capacity had been reduced to 3.87 pesos in loans for each peso of capital and reserves. The marginal expansion of capital in the loans portfolio was reduced even more by the end of 1988 to 2.43 pesos of loans for each peso.

In summary the figures which stand out most clearly make it possible to state that private commercial banks as a whole had strengthened by 1988, increasing the confidence of savers and regaining greater capacity for their role as middlemen within the financial system.

(In Millions of Pesos)

	1988	1987
Total Assets	5,025.6	
Liquid Assets	3,025.5	1,605.5
Total Deposits	5,406.9	3,785.5
Capital+Reserves+Surplus	826.3	542

The previously mentioned, positive results which some institutions within the financial sector were able to record, contributing to their stability and development, should lead the authorities to avoid adopting restrictive policies. It is to be hoped that, without ignoring the use of adequate and equitable policy instruments, the authorities will avoid situations where, due to the lack of timely financing such as occurred in 1988, the same thing could happen in 1989. One of the aspects to be considered should be stimulating the allocation of resources to priority sectors to be defined by the authorities, so that there would be an improvement in GDP in 1989, compared to the results in 1988.

During 1988 neither the growth of deposits nor the increase in capital made it possible to increase the extension of loans. This situation resulted from the fact that from the beginning of 1988 the Central Bank eliminated legal incentives to extend loans of about 500 million Dominican pesos, including large volumes of

loans to the agricultural sector. The impact of this reduction can be appreciated in the change in the policies of the private commercial banking industry in making loans and investments.

Haiti

Reportage on Aftermath of 'Last Week's Events'

U.S. Position Analyzed

FL1804160389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Analyzing Haiti's situation following last week's events, Fritz Longchamps [Haitian citizen who is director of the Washington Office on Haiti, which is sponsored by a private Haitian group] says that elections are not going to solve Haiti's problem if nothing is done, if authorities do not take measures to restore the Haitian people's confidence. Democracy is hardly imminent.

Talking about how the U.S. State Department and Congress see the latest events, Fritz Longchamps says he thinks the U.S. authorities are taking a simplistic view of things. They think hard-line Duvalierists are seeking to overthrow the Avril government, which wants to establish democracy and fight drug trafficking. For these reasons, they have already decided to unblock funds to be used to help the Haitian military government.

The Haitian community in Washington sees things differently. Some people see two Duvalierist camps struggling for power. Others think that if the coup had been successful, the political situation could have been unblocked.

In his analysis of the Haitian crisis, Mr Longchamps, the director of the Washington Office on Haiti [preceding office name in English], cannot understand how Roger Lafontant managed to come to Washington and meet with U.S. officials and Haitian politicians when officially he does not have the right to set foot on U.S. soil.

Longchamps says public opinion among the Haitian community in Washington thinks Leslie Manigat might be the constitutional cover for the latest coup.

[Begin recording] [Longchamps] In our opinion, the way the U.S. Government and even the Congress see the situation is a bit simplistic. I mean, for them, Prosper Avril's government is carrying out a democratic process in Haiti, and the Duvalierists, mainly those in the Dominican Republic and Miami together with their allies in Haiti, feel this is a threat to them. Therefore, the Duvalierists took advantage of the situation in the Army in which Prosper Avril is weeding out those involved in drug trafficking, allied themselves with these men, and fomented a coup that was to bring back to power the hard-line Duvalierist system, which one could call the Papa Doc, Francois Duvalier, wing.

Basing their ideas on this, they say, first of all, that Prosper Avril must be given unreserved support. Also, in addition to the humanitarian aid they had already begun to give, they feel emergency medical aid should be given for those who were hurt.

Second, they feel that funds, which are called economic support funds, should be released for Avril so that he can balance the budget.

Third, they are even planning to provide some kind of military aid.

We think the economic support funds might take a little time, because this has to go before the Congress and become law, whereas I think the limited military assistance they have talked about and the emergency humanitarian aid can be given quickly, without any problem. It may perhaps even have already been given, as we talk to you here, now.

This is the way the State Department and the Congress view the situation.

[Unidentified reporter] And how does the Haitian community in Washington see things?

[Longchamps] A bit differently. They don't see things in black and white like that. Some feel two Duvalierist factions are fighting for control of the government. Others think that if the coup had at least succeeded.... [changes thought] First of all, they are not convinced that it was a Duvalierist coup because they feel that the Duvalierists are present in Haiti, with Avril, and are in the government, through Avril. This doesn't bother them. The way they see it, if the coup had been successful it could have unblocked the political situation in Haiti, a situation in which, according to everyone's impression, is at present blocked.

One of the expressions of this is that Sunday there was a radio program over which the ambassador spoke (?about the practical applications of) the government line. I can tell you that the Haitian community almost ate him alive, so to speak.

[Reporter] OK, as a person who follows Haitian politics from within the United States, what was at the basis of this coup?

[Longchamps] Well, lots of things are not said, and thus there are lots of things we don't know. This makes it very difficult for us to give an opinion on what was at the basis of the coup.

For example, one element that I am considering is that Roger Lafontant's name comes up a lot in connection with this coup. I am not excluding the possibility that he might have been involved with the coup. However, what

everyone finds striking is that Roger Lafontant was recently in Washington, whereas he is someone who was practically forbidden to enter the United States.

Well, he came to Washington. He contacted many people—not only Haitian politicians but also U.S. politicians and even U.S. Government officials—and then returned quietly to the Dominican Republic.

We don't know why he came here. If it was this kind of thing that he came here for, why did the U.S. Government agree to give him a visa to come do this kind of thing here? And why did U.S. Government officials even meet with him? What was said? What did they promise him?

We around here are convinced that we are looking at a situation in which they are manipulating the Haitian people. We don't know what is going on.

Well, as I said, I lack information to be able to give you my opinion outright on whether or not this was a setup; however, as I said, we around here are convinced that there is manipulation going on, and that it is not only Haitian public opinion in Haiti that is being manipulated but also international public opinion, outside Haiti—to ends we do not as yet know.

[Reporter] You mentioned politicians. What was the role of these politicians in the coup? And what sector were they from, exactly?

[Longchamps] Well, according to people here, when we say politicians we mean not only the Duvalierist bigshots who live around here, who are many as you know, but also people like, for example, Leslie Manigat, who at some point could have served as a constitutional cover, so to speak, for the coup, had the coup succeeded. Manigat, from his statements, from his way of proceeding... [rephrases] from the way they [not further identified] (?acted), they left no doubt as to the fact that they were involved in the coup and that for them it was the formula that was going to allow Leslie Manigat to return to power in Haiti.

[Reporter] You say many people in Washington are talking about Manigat, but can you yourself find any connection between the movement that was being carried out earlier, that entire campaign involving the deputies, the Constitution, and pro-Manigat demonstrations... [rephrases] Could there be any connection between all that and the coup itself?

[Longchamps] Well, let me once again say that I, personally, have no proof that would allow me to make such a connection; however, upon analysis, I would say that it is not to be excluded. It is very possible that these things are connected. [end recording]

Avril's 'Le Point' Interview

FL1804165789 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpts] Last weekend, President Avril was a guest on Radio Canada Internationale's program, "Le Point." The main topics discussed during the interview were the failed 2 April coup d'etat and the organizing of future elections in Haiti. [Metropole reporter] Smoy is going to give us an account of the interview.

[Smoy] One week after the failed coup and the crisis his government had to face, military President Prosper Avril was the guest of Radio Canada Internationale to explain what was, in his opinion, at the root of the coup attempt against his government. [passage omitted]

Regarding the failed coup, President Avril thinks it is linked to his policy of struggling against drug trafficking in Haiti.

[Begin recording] [Avril] In my opinion, it must be the result of a kind of reaction, let us say, to the action I have been taking as head of state since 17 September.

First of all there are, of course, the consequences of the economic difficulties we are undergoing.

Second, there is the government's desire to change structures, to effect thorough reforms.

Next, and especially, there is this war that we have declared on drugs and contraband.

Also, I don't think we should underestimate setting in motion the electoral process.

[Unidentified reporter] Are there many people involved? How many people in the public administration are involved in drug trafficking? And how much money does this traffic represent, General, do you think?

[Avril] No, that is not my forte. I cannot go that far. There are technicians, specialists, at work in that domain. It is not my place to get to the bottom of such things.

[Reporter] In any case, what people are saying more and more, abroad, is that you are using this struggle against drug traffickers more and more as a pretext to get rid of, to eliminate, your political adversaries. What would your answer to that be?

[Avril] There, I would say that I have no political adversaries, for I am not a politician. I am here for the purpose of ensuring the transition to democracy. Thus, I have no political adversaries. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Commander Leaves Country

FL1804124089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Guy Francois, the former commander of the Dessalines Barracks Battalion who had sought asylum at the Apostolic Nunciature following the Presidential Guard attack on the rebelling Dessalines Battalion last 8 April, left Haiti over the weekend aboard an ALM plane. His destination was not revealed.

We remind listeners that Guy Francois had been heading the Dessalines Barracks Battalion since Colonel Jean-Claude Paul went into retirement. Col Paul was poisoned and died on 6 November 1988. [passage omitted]

Venezuela Grants Commander Asylum

FL1804205089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The Venezuelan Government has granted asylum to Colonel Guy Francois, former commander of the Dessalines Barracks Battalion, who had rebelled against President Avril. We remind listeners that Col Guy Francois left Port-au-Prince on Friday, 14 April for Caracas via Curacao, accompanied by his wife and two children.

Francois obtained asylum at the Apostolic Nunciature in Port-au-Prince last 8 April, shortly after the attack launched by the Presidential Guard against the rebel battalion he commanded. [passage omitted]

Officially, 6 soldiers and one civilian were killed during the clashes last 8 April between Dessalines Barracks and Presidential Guard soldiers, and 75 people were wounded, 32 civilians and 43 soldiers. According to medical sources, however, the figures are higher. Approximately 30 people, both civilians and soldiers, were allegedly killed, and some 100 wounded.

More Dessalines Troops Surrender

FL1804203989 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Press release issued by the Ministry of Information and Coordination on 18 April, no place given]

[Text] The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination announces that up to yesterday, Monday 17 April 1989, 625 enlisted men and 53 officers of the Dessalines Barracks Battalion had reported to the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] General Headquarters and had returned weapons and other government property in their possession. The latest officer to have reported to FADH General Headquarters was the battalion's deputy commander, Lieutenant Colonel Frantz Douby, FADH.

CATH/CLAT Wants Dialogue

FL1804175289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Excerpts] On 8 April, the country went through a critical period—a period no one would like to see return to Haiti. [passage omitted] A representative of one of Haiti's four principal union federations today sets forth his position on Haiti's current sociopolitical juncture.

In his statements, CATH/CLAT's [Autonomous Federation of Haitian Workers affiliated with the Latin American Central Organization of Workers] Jean-Claude Lebrun highlighted the coups that occur from time to time in Haiti which do nothing for the country. According to Lebrun, these coups just make the long-standing crisis situation in Haiti worse.

Lebrun says the demands being made by the Haitian people since 7 February 1986 have to this day never been satisfied. He says the Haitian people have almost lost the benefits of the historic date of 7 February 1986, because with all these coups and with this crisis in Haiti, the Haitian people are losing all the hope they had after 7 February 1986 that they achieved through much hardship.

Lebrun says that after 17 January 1988, the Haitian nation has been observing, with total indifference, an ever increasing number of political leaders whose struggles are only for the purpose of personal power.

Lebrun adds, and we quote: After all these expectations, all these disappointed hopes, the crisis remains the same in Haiti. There is no hope at all. A solution could come only from a concensus among the diverse sectors of the national life. Sit down, talk, and negotiate to see how we can get Haiti out of the situation it is currently in. All political and humanitarian organizations such as the church and the Army, should sit down together to solve Haiti's problems—together with foreign aid, without interference by other countries in Haitian affairs. We need the help of foreign countries to really start moving and get Haiti out of its current situation—end quote.

Lebrun said all this and more, in connection with last week's political events in Haiti. We will have you listen to an excerpt of what Jean-Claude Lebrun said.

[Begin Lebrun recording, in progress] ...should be based on democratic [word indistinct]. We cannot continue to play hide and seek like this, with the philosophy being: Now let me run things for a little while. [passage omitted]

And every week, it is the same old thing. If they don't send them away to the Dominican Republic.... [changes thought] In the final analysis, I don't know what the Dominican Republic has become. I am wondering if it is not turning from a country into a trash dump. I know the word is strong, but it's true! Those in exile go there to hide. Those expelled go there to hide. Finally, all those

people just sit over there like a band of (?thieves), just standing over there threatening to enter Haiti. And that fear makes the guys over here, who are in power, see red, and declare: Nobody at all makes any move whatsoever!

Meanwhile, the Haitian people are sitting there, having effected a 7 February 1986, and they have to sit there and watch 7 February deteriorating further, and further, and further. What will finally happen is that everyone will become apathetic. Fear will return to people's hearts. People will become discouraged. And the last drop of poison, known as resignation, will permeate the brains of everyone who has been struggling. And those who came from the diaspora will say there is no [words indistinct] and they will return home. And those who were here will stay here with things just the way they were before. And the working class, along with everyone who had begun to organize themselves, will fall right back into a dictatorship.

We had thought 29 November (?was real), that something serious was going on. Well, the forces of darkness got together and spoiled the elections.

Next, the other elections were held. They put in a president who was allegedly not constitutional. However, regardless of whether or not he was constitutional, he was nevertheless ousted by a coup d'etat.

The people who effected that coup claimed they were going to accomplish something, but they did worse things than anything we had ever seen in the history of Haiti: burned down Saint Jean Bosco, murdered people, [words indistinct].

Then there was an allegedly progressive coup d'etat, and what did we see? The same old thing all over again: aborted coups, alleged macoute coups, more coups than ever!

And what's worse, all institutions in Haiti are in crisis. We wonder who is going to solve society's problems!

The church, which was a force for change, became divided. Now there is a hidden crisis in the church. No one can talk about the problems. Many things are covered up.

However, regarding the coverups in the Army, the abscess began draining. [passage omitted]

In the final analysis, we are still facing the same old crisis, which is still serious. We consider this country totally blocked.

There is no other way out of it! Everyone in Haiti must understand that no one alone will be able to solve the crisis. Rather, all the forces of change, all progressive forces, must get together to get the country out of this situation.

How can this be done? I don't think it can be done through a declaration. CATH/CLAT itself doesn't have the answer. It asks that everyone sit down together, and the kind of dialogue there was at the forum, which was not a total success because not all the progressive forces participated.... [changes thought] They [not further identified] have to call for people to sit down together again, to see what solution can be found.

General Avril sitting in the palace doesn't have the solution himself, and no political leader who is an official candidate or a secret candidate has the solution to this country's problems either!

We think that the solution lies with the forces of change, in whatever institution they may be. There are such forces among the unions, in the Army, in the church, among political organizations, among democratic organizations, and everywhere. We think that, with the help of foreign governments, it can be done—but without interference. [end recording]

Radio Antilles Airs

FL1804164289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] In Port-au-Prince, Radio Antilles Internationales, one of the four radio stations that suffered serious damage during the serious incidents that took place in Haiti between 1 and 8 April, is back on the air on 93.5 mhz FM stereo and 96.9 mhz FM mono. We have learned from the radio station's administration that because of the heavy damage done to the radio's AM transmitter, the station still cannot broadcast over the 1240 khz frequency. Thus, the radio is going to broadcast only over 93.5 mhz FM stereo and 96.9 mhz mono. It is not broadcasting over AM.

Rumors of Violence Cause Miragoane School Panic

FL1804200389 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Report from Miragoane correspondent Yves-Marie Jasmin]

[Excerpt] On Friday, 13 April 1989, at around 1100 at the Saint Michel national school not far from Miragoane, the students were running all over the place, scared and in a panic because many parents had come to pick up their children after they had heard that there had been rifle and revolver fire at the national school in (Opak) first communal section, and that there had even been some students killed.

However, we had just been to the national school in (Opak) and had seen that everything was going well, so we tried to calm the parents and students at the Saint Michel school, telling them that the news circulating was not at all true but was rather a rumor circulated by certain people to discourage students from attending school.

However, this did not prevent the panic and fear from spreading to all the schools in Fond des Negres, fifth communal section, and even as far as downtown Miragoane, where all the students rushed home from school. [passage omitted]

Leogane Students Sent Home

FL1804201889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Report from Leogane correspondent Jean Wilfrid Napoleon]

[Text] There was panic today, Tuesday, 18 April, in Leogane. This morning there was a false report to the effect that the (Croix des Paix) national school had been set on fire. The rumor was first heard in the public marketplace, where all the vendors fled. All the schools in Leogane were let out. In Croix des Paix, subject of the rumor, schoolchildren became frightened. The students' uniforms had to be removed, so that the students could rush home. There was also a big steet panic in the town of Leogane, and all the primary schools sent their students home.

We report that the secondary schools functioned normally.

Avril Urged To Open Italian-Backed Sugar Mill

FL1804171189 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...Raoul Beauvoir, accompanied by Max Beauvoir, who is the cooperative's adviser, met with the president of the military government, General Prosper Avril, and a representative of the Italian Embassy in Port-au-Prince at the National Palace to discuss the future opening of the Darbonne sugar mill in Leogane.

This group of peasants (?adds) that at that meeting it had been decided that the work was to begin within 4 weeks after 21 February. However, the work has not to this day begun.

The group of peasants (?says) that once those 4 weeks were over, the Italians have called every couple of days, wanting to know whether or not the documents have been signed, because they themselves are ready to come repair the sugar mill. For more details, we will give a few of the peasants the floor.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] (?They had said that) the Italians could come to Haiti after 4 weeks to fix the mill. The Italians call morning, noon, and night. They themselves are ready to come to Haiti this very day. It is we who are not yet ready; it is the Haitian Government's fault that Haiti is not yet ready. We have come to ask Avril to liberate the country, now, because the country (?is hanging on by the skin of its teeth). There is no work, no nothing. Work keeps the country going. The peasant needs to work. He never has work, and here is this big sugar mill just sitting there, and we have cane! We can't find anyone to sell it to. We have no market. We can't carry it on our heads to HASCO [Haitian-American Sugar Company] to sell it there! We can't carry it on our heads to Cap-Haitien or Les Cayes to sell it! But we have a mill right here at home, and we have cane right here at home. We want to ask Avril to call the Finance Ministry and tell them to turn the mill over to the peasants, now.

[Reporter] Can you tell us when the cooperative's president sat down and talked to the president of Haiti?

[Speaker] They met on 21 February and sat down and discussed this. They discussed it at length and even had a Coke together. All the foreigners were there. And it was said that all the papers were ready. Pade himself is a planter and the head of a household. He would like to turn the mill over to the barefoot peasants.

[Reporter] Where did this meeting take place?

[Speaker] At the palace. [end recording]

We remind listeners that the Darbonne sugar mill was built in 1983 and was operative for only 3 years. In 1986, Leslie Delatour, who was then the finance minister, shut down this sugar mill. Despite the cries from the peasants, the mill has never been reopened.

According to the group of peasants, 4,000 members of the cooperative are planting cane in Leogane to supply the Darbonne sugar mill.

Soldiers Suspected of Fleeing Forced To Return

FL1804124889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Report by Cap-Haitien correspondent James Saint-Julien]

[Text] Five Haitian Armed Forces enlisted men were in police custody in Cap-Haitien last Tuesday, 11 April 1989. These five enlisted men, who were attempting to flee, were dressed in civilian clothing. They were thwarted when other military in the area, who knew them, suspected them of fleeing, as they were taking a vehicle that was heading southeast out of Cap-Haitien all the way to the border.

Despite the fact that these enlisted men claimed to have complied with all the formalities in Port-au-Prince before leaving, the soldiers in Cap-Haitien, who did not want to arrest them and just keep them in custody, forced them to turn around and go back to Port-au-Prince, where they came from.

This is James Saint-Julien, Radio Soleil, Cap-Haitien.

New Officials Installed in Saint-Marc

FL1804125589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] In Saint-Marc, a new magistrate cartel was sworn in on Saturday 15 April at approximately 1100 at the civil court of Saint-Marc. This cartel—made up of Gerard Desruisseaux, (Louis Cefacile), and Yves Kenold—replaces the former cartel, which a number of associations in Saint-Marc appointed after the 17 September [1988] coup d'etat.

This former cartel was forever disagreeing with prefect Gerard Guignard and the Saint-Marc Public Works authorities.

Also, Mr Joseph Lafortune was sworn in as representative of the Department of the Public Prosecutor in Saint-Marc. He replaces Mr Eddy Dupiton. Mr Lafortune is the former director of Lycee Stenio Vincent in Saint-Marc. After the departure of Jean-Claude Duvalier, Mr Lafortune had been forced by the students to leave the lycee.

Both these installation ceremonies were held by the doyen of the civil court, Mr Jacques C. Miot.

Jamaica

Seaga Relinquishes Post in 'Shadow Cabinet'

FL1804222489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2122 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 18, CANA—Opposition leader Edward Seaga, who was finance minister for the eight years of his administration, has relinquished the portfolio in his Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) shadow cabinet, the party announced Tuesday. The former prime minister, voted out in the February 9 general election here, has retained the planning portfolio, but has transferred finance to JLP chairman, former construction minister, Bruce Golding. The selection of Golding for the key shadow finance job was being seen here as further confirmation of Golding as a trusted Seaga assistant and the annointed heir-apparent.

Seaga said his giving up of finance was in keeping with his plans at the time of the December 1986 cabinet reshuffle—after his party was humiliated in municipal elections. At the time Seaga said he would have stepped down as party leader the following year, but JLP followers called for him to stay on.

A notable entrant to Seaga's shadow cabinet was Douglas Vaz in the trade and industry portfolio. Vaz was minister of trade and industry from 1980 until the cabinet reshuffle when he was demoted to work in the same post under Deputy Prime Minister Hugh Shearer.

Vaz was thrown out of the cabinet in January 1987 when he quarreled with Seaga over a new economic support programme with International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Karl Samuda, a junior minister for health in the Seaga government, has been made spokesman for public utilities and transport, while the former minister, Pearnel Charles, takes over agriculture.

There are two first-time entrants in the shadow cabinet, Derrick Smith, a back-bencher in the former parliament who has been named spokesman for the public service. Audley Shaw, an impressive marketing and information executive who lost his parliamentary bid in the February election, has been named spokesman for information and culture.

Costa Rica

Government Denies Guerrillas on Panamanian Border

PA1804134089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0206 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] San Jose, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Security Minister Hernan Garron today denied that guerrillas are being trained on the Panamanian border to facilitate a U.S. military invasion during Panama's elections scheduled for 7 May.

Progovernment Legislator Luis Gomez said today in Panama City that mercenaries financed by the United States are being trained on the Costa Rica-Panama border to facilitate a U.S. military invasion during the elections.

Gomez, a legislator for the Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, the major party in the progovernment coalition, told ACAN-EFE today that a group of mercenaries left from the U.S. Southern Command's Howard Air Force Base.

Garron, speaking on a local radio station, denied Gomez' statements.

"There is total peace on the border," Garron said.

"None of our border posts have detected any movement," the minister reiterated, adding that over the weekend he toured the southernmost areas of Costa Rica bordering Panama.

The Costa Rican minister said Panamanian authorities have not divulged "any information or requested surveillance in certain areas."

"Costa Rica has always cooperated and exchanged all types of information, and we have not received any requests regarding this issue," Garron said.

Garron likewise pointed out that Panamanian Ambassador Dario Arosemena has not expressed any concerns regarding this issue.

"It seems as if the atmosphere surrounding the elections is heating up, but that is an internal Panamanian affair," the Costa Rican security minister concluded.

Housing Minister Denies Ties to Panama's Noriega

PA1804192689 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Costa Rican Housing Minister Fernando Zumbado will file suit against former INVU [National Institute of Housing and City Planning] officials Alberto Franco and Alberto Iezzi. The two told the antidrug commission that Zumbado was linked to a suitcase full of U.S. money that Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega had allegedly sent to Costa Rica to help finance Oscar Arias' political campaign.

Zumbado told the antidrug commission that he will not put up with any of these allegations.

[Begin Zumbado recording] I have decided to file suit against Alberto Franco and Alberto Iezzi for slander and libel for what they told the antidrug commission on Friday. I am being backed by Humberto Fallas, a distinguished lawyer, with whom I have already talked. He and I are preparing everything necessary to file a suit. I believe this kind of thing requires the proper attitude. Our attitude on personal attacks depends on who the attackers are. I think it is important for the Costa Rican people to know that both Iezzi and Franco deeply resented leaving the INVU board of directors when the auditors took over. I think it is very negative for the antidrug commission to become a forum for resentful people to vent their frustrations. [end recording]

Asked about his connection with Noriega, Zumbado flatly denied any such relationship exists. In addition, he said he knows nothing about the money the Panamanian dictator suppposedly sent to the National Liberation Party.

El Salvador

Government Condemns Attack on Merino's Residence

PA1804134889 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 15 Apr 89 p 8

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Apr (SISAL)—The government, through the Culture and Communications Ministry, strongly condemns the terrorist attack early this morning on the residence of Vice President-elect Francisco Jose Merino in the capital's Maquilishuat suburb.

The government hereby reiterates that violence and terrorism are not adequate methods to find a civilized solution to the problems burdening El Salvador, that ideas should be fought with ideas, and that there are legal means to deal with ideological and political differences.

The attack on the Merino residence is just one more violent act that has taken place in this capital in recent weeks; acts that are the product of irrational people who, incapable of presenting and defending their arguments in civilized dialogues or elections, resort to bullets, violence, bombs, and terrorism.

The government condemns this irrational act that endangered the lives of innocent people. It expresses its firm commitment to work for peace and agreement among Salvadorans through a dialogue with all sectors of Salvadoran society, and calls on the people to close ranks against those who want to install a reign of terror in our fatherland.

ARENA Criticizes Attack

PA1804142089 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 15 Apr 89 p 29

[Communique issued by the Nationalist Republican Alliance in San Salvador on 14 April]

[Text] ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] condemns the cowardly and savage attack by the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] on Friday, 14 April, against the family of Jose Francisco Merino Lopez, who was elected vice president of El Salvador by the will of the Salvadoran people. These irrational and cunning actions only prove that the FMLN-FDR terrorist leaders have no desire to achieve peace but rather wish to increase and deepen the war without considering the Salvadoran people's pain and sacrifice. Above all, such actions prove that their sole aim is to take power through violence and not through elections.

ARENA calls on all national and international human rights organizations to speak out against this new FMLN-FDR criminal action that endangered the lives of Mr Merino's children, friends, and servants. This action is another in the series of actions against innocent civilians who have been harmed by the irrational escalation of terrorist violence. For this reason, we ask human rights organizations to demand that the FMLN-FDR terrorist leaders respect the Salvadoran people's lives and property.

In light of the above, ARENA:

1. Demands that the Armed Forces high command faithfully abide by the law and prevent and control the FMLN-FDR's indiscriminate terrorist actions.

2. Urges the honorable diplomatic corps accredited in our country to inform their respective governments of these indescribable actions that are only aimed at hindering the democratic process to which the stoic and brave Salvadoran people are committed.

3. Calls on the people in general not to be frightened by these acts of vandalism carried out by the terrorist hordes and to have faith that, God willing, in the near future we will find ourselves united in peace, justice, and progress in democracy and freedom.
[Signed] Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA
San Salvador, 14 April 1989

Rebels Claim 40 Army Casualties in Chalatenango

PA1904015189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] At 0100 on 18 April, our forces began the maneuver called "Stop repression: The people's enemies are punished by the people's combat." The maneuver consisted of an attack on Belloso Battalion positions and on the 4th Infantry Brigade in La Laguna, Chalatenango Department. The attack began concurrently with people's artillery operations against enemy positions in La Virgen Hill, (El Cementerio), El Amate Station, and El Tamarindo, as well as with an ambush against the positions on the park's south side.

One hour after the attack began, the Belloso Battalion troops received air support, which was completely ineffective. Fighting was still raging at 0530, when we opened antiaircraft fire against the aircraft. Our fire damaged one helicopter, which immediately withdrew from the combat zone.

The results of this attack on enemy positions in La Laguna are: 40 casualties, most of which were inflicted on the Belloso Battalion. The casualties include a corporal and a sergeant. A UH-1L helicopter—that is a helicopter gunship—was damaged. Your attention please: We seized an M-60 machinegun with 1,000 rounds, 2 M-16 rifles, a substantial amount of ammunition, and other Army war materiel.

At the same time that we were attacking enemy positions in La Laguna, our guerrilla forces attacked positions in Concepcion Quezaltepeque and Dulce Nombre de Maria. During the maneuver, militia forces carried out propaganda activities in the El Carrizal and Ojo de Agua jurisdictions. In Vainillas, our militia forces sabotaged a CONARA [National Commission for Reconstruction] vehicle.

This sweeping guerrilla maneuver occurs merely 12 days after the attack on the 4th Infantry Brigade headquarters, where we inflicted a large number of casualties on the enemy. We inform our people that five of our comrades heroically fell during the attack against enemy positions at La Laguna. They generously sacrificed their lives for our people's freedom. For their sake, we vow that we will win.
[Signed] Joint Command of the Modesto Ramirez Central Front in Chalatenango

Clashes With Army 15-16 Apr

PA1904040189

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 18 April broadcasts 5 minutes of reports on clashes between Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas and Salvadoran Army troops on 15 and 16 April.

The first report says FMLN units clashed with Atlacatl Battalion troops in Alta Vista, Metapan, Santa Ana Department, on 16 April, inflicting one Army casualty. The report adds: "With that casualty, we have inflicted 10 casualties on the Atlacatl Battalion in Metapan as of 16 April. The 10 casualties include 1 sergeant and 1 corporal."

The second report says FMLN units inflicted three casualties on Military Detachment No 2 with rifle fire and mines at La Puertona hamlet near Ilobasco on 15

April. "It was also reported that a guerrilla unit occupied a section of the coastal highway near Primavera Bridge. They erected barricades and inflicted one casualty on the Arce Battalion when its troops tried to dismantle the barricades," the station noted.

The last report cites a communique from the western front saying FMLN units "administered revolutionary justice on well-known criminal and death squad member Juan Manuel Monterrosa on 11 April."

Nicaragua

Law Passes Allowing Former Contras To Vote

PA1804211389 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2023 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 18 Apr (DPA)—The Nicaraguan National Assembly has passed a provisional [con caracter transistorio] Electoral Law amendment whereby those Nicaraguans who have left the contra ranks can vote in the upcoming elections.

The amendment was approved following a debate that lasted several hours. The opposition had asked that those Nicaraguans living abroad also be allowed to vote. This proposal was approved. Those Nicaraguans temporarily residing outside the country can register at the Nicaraguan consulates of their host countries, but must vote in Nicaragua.

The Assembly also approved the formation of the Electoral Council, two of whose five members will be from the opposition and three from the government party. The opposition has called the amendments "insufficient," adding that they do not permit open elections.

Ortega on Refugees, Repatriation Plan

PA1804193689 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Report on statement by President Daniel Ortega in Managua; date not given]

[Text] After meeting with Jean Pierre Hocke, UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], President Daniel Ortega has said that 200 Salvadorans have requested permission to come to Nicaragua through the UNHCR. Meanwhile, the exact number of Nicaraguans wishing to return to the country through UNHCR programs is not yet known.

[Begin Ortega recording] There are different figures mentioned, so it would be more advisable to confirm in each country how many people are willing to return to Nicaragua. He [Hocke] presented a request by 200 Salvadoran refugees wishing to come to Nicaragua. I told him our doors are open to [words indistinct] in Nicaragua. [end recording]

President Ortega said the funds approved by the U.S. Congress for humanitarian aid for the contras should be used to support projects like the repatriation plan that the government presented to the UNHCR yesterday.

[Begin Ortega recording] That money should be used for this plan. U.S. Government funds should be used for this plan and not to keep the contras in Honduras for another 300 days. We will insist on this plan during the upcoming presidential summit because the U.S. Government is violating the accord. In any case, those funds should be used to (?support) a plan like the one we are proposing. [end recording]

Bill Outlines Rights, Responsibilities of Media

PA1804192989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The media bill, which was submitted by the Presidency of the Republic and which will be debated at the National Assembly next week, states that the right to inform is a social responsibility that is not subject to censorship. The bill points out that Nicaraguans have a right to have access to accurate information on the same event from different sources to allow them to freely form their own opinions.

The bill adds: The media are instruments at the service of the development, education, culture, and health of the Nicaraguan people and must efficiently contribute to the dissemination of objective, broad, well-balanced information; they should also help strengthen peace and international harmony, promote human rights, and fight racism, war, and any form of discrimination.

Assembly Approves Rules on Campaign Media Use

PA1804212589 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] During this morning's session, the National Assembly approved the Electoral Law article regulating the use of media by political parties during the election campaign. Campaigning parties will have 30 minutes airtime per day in each one of the television channels, and 45 minutes airtime per day on the state-run radio stations. Airtime on privately-owned stations will be bought through an open contract system.

Ivan Garcia Cortes, director of the SSTV [Sandinist Television System], attended this morning's session and briefed the legislators on the rates charged for television airtime during the election campaign.

[Begin Garcia recording] The 30-second spots on Channel 6 cost 262,675 [cordobas] each. The 45-second spots cost 376,345 [cordobas] each, and the 60-second spots 472,015 [cordobas]. On Channel 2, a 30-second spot costs 122,115; a 45-second spot 162,820; and the 60-second spot 215,155 cordobas each.

These are the most important rates, generally speaking. We are talking about 15, 30, and 60 minutes and 30, 45, and 60 seconds. These are the usual, standard length of spots on television. In addition to this, we have to charge... [changes thought] We have the capacity to provide services to all political parties wishing to pay for television production services. This means that any party can approach a television station and rent the equipment it needs for a television spot. Our current rates are as follows: In the case of portable recording equipment, the minimum time is 1 hour and the charge is 150,000 cordobas. [end recording]

RN Claims Sandinists Executing Peasants

PA1904001789 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2315 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate on 18 April; read by unidentified RN member during news conference in Miami—recorded]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] announces to the Nicaraguan people and the international democratic community that:

1. The Sandinist regime has unleashed a new campaign of repression against peasants in northern Nicaragua. It has arrested or murdered peasants in that area under the pretext that they are RN supporters or followers.

2. Nicaraguans living in the northern departments and human rights organizations have charged that since the day the Central American peace agreement was signed, members of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and Sandinist security forces have murdered 13 civilians in Apantillo, northern Nicaragua, and 40 or 50 civilians in Matagalpa, Chontales, Jinotega, and Central Zelaya Departments.

3. Such is the case of peasant Felicito Peralta, brother of three RN fighters, whose body was found by peasants from Apantillo. Peralta's body showed signs of torture, and he had been shot. His body was found a few days after EPS soldiers forcibly took him from his home in front of his wife and other family members.

4. Human rights organizations, among them Americas Watch, have described the recent executions of peasants as a systematic policy by the Sandinist authorities, because the number of these executions makes it impossible to believe these are isolated cases.

5. The aforementioned is proof that in light of the possibility that the Nicaraguan people will use their vote to express their opposition to the Sandinist National Liberation Front and their support for the reforms agreed upon in El Salvador, the Sandinist regime has unleashed a new repressive campaign to terrorize the peasants, who will undoubtedly vote to repudiate Sandinism.
[Signed] RN Directorate
18 April 1989

RN's Ferrey on Elections, Electoral Law Reforms

PA1804234089 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 89

["Exclusive interview" with Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] adviser Azucena Ferrey by Rafael Mojica in Miami on 17 April—recorded]

[Text] [Mojica] I am Rafael Mojica Obregon reporting from Miami for Radio Corporacion. My report deals with problems in the Nicaraguan election process. The Sandinist government called for elections in accordance with the agreement signed in El Salvador on 14 February.

We interviewed Azucena Ferrey, who is a leader of the Nicaraguan Social Christian Party in exile. She has supported the Nicaraguan internal opposition's recent actions. Mrs Ferrey, what can you tell us about the atmosphere for the elections called by the Sandinist regime?

[Ferrey] I believe that the Nicaraguan people clearly remember the 1984 elections. We are now forced to have elections that do not even offer the minimal guarantees for participation by the internal or exiled opposition. The only real alternative—and the only acceptable challenge for Nicaraguans who are aware of the need for real structural changes in the Nicaraguan Government—is the election process itself. All Nicaraguans understand that the elections should be a civilized means of effecting change. It would be civilized to reach decisions through votes cast in the ballot boxes.

The Nicaraguan Resistance said that it is willing to take that challenge, because the vote is the only weapon with which to change the Sandinist regime. We took that challenge. We, however, do not wish to play a game.

I was in Nicaragua in 1984, when we decided not to participate in a fixed election process that only served to legitimize the Sandinist regime. We are facing the same situation now. We, however, believe that the Central American and other Latin American presidents observing what was happening in Nicaragua decided to be the guarantors of a truly honest, workable election process that will successfully overthrow the Sandinist Front.

My weapon for freedom is my vote, and I will demand my right to vote, whether in Nicaragua or abroad. There are 800,000 Nicaraguans outside our homeland, and we are in a position to say that we will not stand for another year of Sandinist rule.

[Mojica] Mrs Ferrey, will the proposal to reform the Nicaraguan Electoral Law sent by President Ortega to the National Assembly guarantee free elections in Nicaragua?

[Ferrey] No. It does not guarantee free elections and the civic Nicaraguan opposition leaders who recently went to Guatemala believe this as well. I believe that at the Assembly Daniel Ortega must agree to reforms that... [changes thought] They are playing a game. Let us take

the pardons as an example. To avoid the appearance of not complying with the commitment to issue a general amnesty and to release the former Somozist guardsmen, Daniel decided to make the National Assembly appear to be useful for the first time. The National Assembly thus became an accomplice in the noncompliance with the Esquipulas II agreement, the Sapoa agreement, and all the commitments made in El Salvador.

Godoy Reacts to Government Electoral Reforms

PA1904040789 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Independent Liberal Party President Virgilio Godoy by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] How do you view the debates on the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE] bill?

[Godoy] With whom am I speaking?

[Reporter] This is the Radio Report Newscast.

[Godoy] Well, the debate had a poor start for several reasons. First, the government party refused to consider the opposition proposal as a whole, by which I mean the proposal made by the group of 15, as it is called. It also had a bad start because the reforms presented by the government do not include recommendations by the Venezuelan and Costa Rican CSE's, directly requested by Daniel Ortega and something that Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has also insisted on. Consequently, with this beginning, the debate started out badly. You can hear someone speaking [at the Assembly] right now. She is referring to the reforms and is trying to insult someone from the opposition who just made a suggestion.

[Reporter] Assembly President Commander Carlos Nunez just said that the government is willing to agree to a CSE composition of two Sandinist Front members, two opposition members, and a prominent figure. What do you think of this?

[Godoy] I do not know under what authority Nunez is making this kind of offer. I understood that these matters were going to be discussed here. If Carlos Nunez were to set the rules for CSE membership, that would be an act of arrogance and would mean that our efforts here are meaningless. This is one of the mistakes made by the government, its party, and ruling party members. They are always making decisions that run counter to the opinion of all Nicaraguans.

[Reporter] How do you view this? Is this a positive attitude?

[Godoy] I think this is mere propaganda. Nunez and Ortega are getting ready to go to Europe with an outstretched hand, and they want to finalize certain details before they go.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Will you go to the elections as a bloc?

[Godoy] The opposition is ready to participate effectively. What is happening here is not a matter of [words indistinct], as athletes would call it. [Words indistinct] It is not like that. If the right conditions do not exist, our participation would be traitorous to the Nicaraguan people. Under the conditions that the government wants to [words indistinct] on the opposition.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about unity among the liberal parties?

[Godoy] It is very good. On Sunday, 23 April, we will take the first step toward unity with the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, which is the main liberal bloc in the country.

[Reporter] Would you be willing to give up the Independent Liberal Party presidency for the sake of unity?

[Godoy] I would be willing to give up the presidency of any party, even yours.

[Reporter] Would you be willing to be an opposition presidential candidate?

[Godoy] I believe that it is too early to talk about that. The opposition has concentrated on a program that is [word indistinct] and universally accepted.

[Reporter] Will there be agreement [words indistinct]?

[Godoy] The government, its party, people, and institutions have been promoting the idea that the opposition is divided, separated, destroyed, and that the parties are fighting among themselves. This is what it has tried to do, but unsuccessfully.

Assembly To Select Electoral Council Members

PA1804162189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Political parties will submit lists of candidates for the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE]—which will be composed of five magistrates and their respective alternates, who will be elected by the National Assembly from lists submitted by the president of the republic. The National Assembly will select the CSE president from among those elected magistrates.

This is part of the text of Article 1 of the Electoral Law. Amendments to this law were submitted by the Presidency of the Republic and will be further debated at the Assembly today.

The law states that the president of the republic will ask the representatives of legally registered political parties, except for the ruling party, to submit lists of qualified citizens.

The Electoral Law states: The president of the republic will take into account those lists in preparing two of the principal-alternate lists. In at least one of the lists, he will give preference to those who receive the most votes in the most recent elections of authorities.

LA PRENSA on Ruiz Nomination Possibilities

PA1804230889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0006 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 17 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Violeta de Chamorro, president of the Managua opposition newspaper LA PRENSA board of directors, said today that Commander Henry Ruiz is not only doing better than President Daniel Ortega in the elections, he is in fact on the verge of winning the Sandinist presidential nomination.

Sources close to the revolutionary regime's leadership have said that the nine commanders who make up the directorate governing Nicaragua have not made any decision on the nomination of the ruling party presidential candidate.

Newspaper reports released a few days ago, which were not denied by Sandinist sources, said that four of the nine revolutionary directorate members would cast votes supporting Commander Ruiz as the official candidate.

Chamorro said: "Mr Ortega is becoming terrified by the growing evidence that he is losing political power in the wake of the next Nicaraguan elections," scheduled for 25 February 1990.

Violeta de Chamorro made these statements, published in today's LA PRENSA, in response to statements about LA PRENSA made by President Ortega in a speech he gave on Sunday in the western city of Leon.

Before a Sandinist gathering in Leon, Ortega described the daily as "the newspaper of the (Somozist) guards," and he advised the paper "to beware of inciting a confrontation between these individuals (former Somozist guardsmen) and the people."

According to Violeta Chamorro, in addition to the problems he already has with his own party, Ortega is also facing the problems of dealing with the ambitions of Foreign Cooperation Minister Henry Ruiz, the internal opposition's alliance with the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN), and the U.S. congressional approval of aid for the contras.

"A delirious state of mind prompts him to make false accusations against LA PRENSA. He has also seriously threatened that LA PRENSA must straighen out, which perhaps means that we are about to suffer new forms of aggression," the newspaper director said.

Violeta Chamorro added that the only thing the newspaper has done with regard to the former Somozist guardsmen is "to try to do justice to those thousands of prisoners who were sentenced as a result of mock trials."

In mid-March, Ortega's government pardoned 1,894 former soldiers of the previous regime; however, 39 of those prisoners still remain in jail. They are accused of committing "crimes against humanity."

Enrique Bolanos, former president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise of Nicaragua, and Mrs Violeta Chamorro have been mentioned as possible united opposition candidates for the next elections.

Regarding her possible candidacy, Violeta Chamorro said today: "I agree with those who say that it is still too early to speak of nominations." She added, however: "One thing is certain: I will do anything within my power to contribute to the united opposition's victory."

Somarriba Interview on Opposition, RN Meeting

PA1304194889 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Apr 89

[Interview with Ernesto Somarriba, secretary general of the Constitutionalist Liberal Party, by unidentified reporter "this morning" at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport—recorded]

[Text] [Somarriba] We were very favorably impressed with our trip. The group that traveled to Guatemala included representatives from all the opposition political parties and three labor unions of the Workers Permanent Congress [CPT]. In Guatemala, we had an extremely interesting exchange with the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. The RN said that it will guarantee the election process now beginning in Nicaragua, and that it will not initiate offensive operations until after the elections.

In our meeting, RN members expressed full support for the opposition parties' positions. Furthermore, the opposition demonstrated unity. This does not necessarily mean that it acted in a uniform way. Democracy is not uniform. People here say that the opposition is not united because it has not formed a single party. The Nicaraguan opposition encompasses many political tendencies, but it also has one common goal: to succeed in exchanging this government for a democratic one.

The talks lasted 2 days. At the end of the talks, a communique was issued in which the RN expressed its support for the Nicaraguan civic opposition movement. We also spoke to Guatemalan Foreign Relations Minister [Mario Palencia] and to Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo. Both were fully receptive to the opposition's stand.

There are two stages in this election process. The first will be on 25 April, when we will see which Electoral Code reforms the government approves to create conditions for honest, free, and fair elections; the second stage—assuming that the conditions are right and that the opposition agrees to participate in the election process—will occur after the elections.

[Reporter] Some of the issues discussed with the RN were not included in the document.

[Somarriba] What document?

[Reporter] The document signed by the civic opposition and the RN.

[Somarriba] The joint communique issued by the RN and the political parties detailed our joint activities. We discussed what we hope to achieve through the elections. With the elections, we hope to effect a change in the government that will lead to Nicaragua's democratization and to overcoming the political, social, and cultural poverty suffered by the Nicaraguan people.

We also discussed our demands. We are demanding the passage of all the reforms presented to the government in a document signed by the civic opposition. If the necessary conditions for an election debate do not exist, we will only be consolidating the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] in power. That is not what the elections are all about. In this election process, the Nicaraguan people must determine who will rule this country. If there is an appropriate climate for the elections, then the people will decide who will rule Nicaragua and under what regime and conditions.

[Reporter] Could you comment on your talks with President Cerezo?

[Somarriba] President Cerezo completely agreed with the opposition. He said: Please do not think that because we are not in Nicaragua, we do not know what is going on in Nicaragua. We are not naive. We are not ignoring the situation there. The Central American presidents will not allow President Ortega to mock the El Salvador agreement, which cannot be separated from the Alajuela and Esquipulas agreements.

President Cerezo agrees that the Sandinists do not keep their promises. He fully agrees with that, and says: We will not allow ourselves to be fooled. We will not listen to the Sandinists' manipulated propaganda campaigns. We will pay attention to the political situation in Nicaragua and give our support as members of the Central American community.

[Reporter] We have heard that a second meeting has been scheduled for May. Is there any possibility that this meeting will take place in Managua?

[Somarriba] We agreed to wait for the first stage of this election process, which is when we will find out which Electoral Code reforms the Sandinist government will adopt. We will then know whether the climate is right or whether the proper conditions for fair elections do not exist. Immediately after we learned about this... [changes thought] It could be before 25 April. From reading the papers, we believe that it could even be on 18, 19, or 20 April. However, 25 April is the latest possible date, because that is the date established in the agreement signed at Playa del Sol, El Salvador. Once we know what conditions the Sandinist government will offer for the election process, the opposition will examine these conditions. Of course, it will come to an agreement with the civic... [corrects himself] excuse me, the armed resistance, which is acting in concert with the civic opposition. The RN is abiding by a cease-fire. We will come to an agreement on our next step.

This meeting is tentatively set to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica. The meeting could also be held in Guatemala once again. Even though the RN members said they were willing to come to Managua, we do not consider Managua an option. Instead, we are considering Costa Rica and Guatemala.

[Reporter] One part of the agreement signed by the opposition parties and the RN expresses doubts about the commission currently examining the electoral code reform. Based on this fact, it is being said that, upon returning from Guatemala, the 14 opposition parties intend to discredit this commission and to make several demands, as the RN advised. What can you tell us about this?

[Somarriba] There is no doubt about that. There is concern because the Sandinist government always makes sure it has a majority to back up its actions. It always has an overwhelming majority that tilts the balance—as occurred this time in the assembly—in favor of the FSLN. There is no doubt about this. We are concerned because we can see how an electoral fraud is being prepared in advance. By appointing a commission that favors the Sandinists' interests they are making sure they can do whatever they want and not what the assembly as a sovereign power should do. So there is no doubt in our minds. We are certain that a fraud is being prepared.

[Reporter] Would you like to add anything else?

[Somarriba] We only want to request the people's support. Local and foreign resistance movements are working together. We want the people to support us. Should we feel that conditions are not right to participate in the elections, we will consult with the people, so that the people can decide what the best thing is for the opposition to do. We want the people to have faith in their leaders. Opposition leaders are fighting for Nicaragua's future. We want to democratize this country, which deserves a better future. As civic opposition members, we want the war to end once and for all. Therefore, we urge the people to support us. We also call upon the Sandinist government, because if conditions are not right for the elections, the problem would shift from the civic to military field.

[Reporter] In addition to the official invitations you received, did you meet with other sectors or personalities? We understand that you had plans to meet with members of the Guatemalan Supreme Electoral Council and electoral officials to learn about their electoral procedures?

[Somarriba] No, we did not meet with Guatemalan electoral officials. We met with the foreign minister, with President Vinicio Cerezo, and with the chairman of the congress. During our meetings with Guatemalan Government officials, we sought their support, which we received fully. They agreed to implement with us coordination mechanisms aimed at preventing the Sandinists from making fun once again of the agreements, of the Nicaraguan people, and of the opposition. [end recording]

Sweden Gives $4 Million To Aid Economic Program

PA1904041789 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 15 Apr 89 p 1

[Summary] According to Nicaraguan Central Bank Vice President Roberto Gutierrez, the Swedish Government donated $4 million to Nicaragua for its economic stabilization program. Gutierrez explained that the donation will help stabilize the parallel market exchange rate and will cover the imports Nicaragua needs. Gutierrez added that the donation will lead to a 90-percent increase in the supply of dollars at the exchange brokers, which will sell this foreign exchange to importers.

Correction to Conservative Leader on Unity

PA1804000189

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Conservative Leader on Opposition-RN 'Unity,'" published in the 17 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 31:

page 31, column one, penultimate paragraph, last sentence make read: ...unity with the external armed resistance, the...(rewording).

Panama

Legislator Claims U.S. Training Mercenaries

PA1804132189 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 17 Apr 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Ruben Dario Diaz C.]

[Text] Legislator Luis Gomez has charged that the opposition is mentioning election fraud to justify any eventual U.S. intervention in Panama, 12 Panamanians who have initiated a disinformation campaign throughout Latin America are advising the opposition, and mercenary groups which were being paid millions of dollars provided by the Reagan administration, and now are being paid by the Bush administration, are receiving paramilitary training on the Costa Rican-Panamanian border—all part of a plan supported by the U.S. Government.

Legislator Gomez said that the mercenary group left from Howard Air Force Base for other Latin American countries and that INTERPOL is looking for the mercenaries.

Luis Gomez also said that the mercenary group had been supporting and advising the Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance.

Gomez has charged that a group of 12 Panamanians has started a disinformation campaign throughout Latin America in accordance with the charges of election fraud that the opposition is making to justify an eventual U.S. intervention. This Panamanian group is headed by civic leaders and traitors such as Jose I. Blandon, Roberto Diaz Herrera, [Gilbert] Mallol, and others.

Gomez, who is running for reelection as legislator for District 8-6, also said these 12 Panamanians left on a trip to some Latin American countries, including Guatemala, Venezuela, and Argentina, where they have held seminars critical of Panama and its government to create the impression that "we are bleeding to death" in Panama.

Gomez said this effort is linked to the arrest of Muse, a U.S. citizen found in possession of sophisticated electronic equipment capable of interfering with radio and television broadcasts.

Gomez said this trip by these 12 Panamanians is also part of the plans of the civic groups, which have announced that they will hold vigils near "polling places after 1700 [on 7 May]." Their objective, according to Gomez, is to keep a large number of Panamanians in polling areas and to create confrontations among Panamanians that could be used as a justification for a possible intervention by the U.S. Government in the domestic affairs of Panama.

Luis Gomez said the 12 Panamanians and the opposition are no longer requesting U.S. intervention in the form of economic blackmail, election pressure, or just pressure. They are requesting direct military intervention because they have a ghost president who, faced with confrontation or a delicate situation, could request U.S. intervention.

Foreign Monitoring of Elections Forbidden

FL1804184589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Panama has just officially announced that it will not give permission to any foreign entity to establish itself in that country during the elections for the purpose of supplying information and commentary relating to the 7 May electoral process before official results are revealed. In a communique issued late Monday night the Ministry of Government and Justice confirmed that the Electoral Tribunal is the only institution tasked with offering that type of information. The communique, issued by Minister Rodolfo Chiari De Leon, specifies that the Ministry of Government and Justice will abstain from giving permission to any persons or groups wishing to carry out these tasks.

This Monday an American group announced it would establish itself in Panama and set up its offices in the luxurious Marriott Hotel in Panama City. Press media have been warning for several days that the parallel office for the monitoring of election results is one of the basic tools used to destabilize the country and that it would act together with the six clandestine radio stations and the three television stations recently closed down by agents of Panama's State Security.

Ministry Orders Suspension of ADOC Program

PA1804124089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0506 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 17 Apr (AFP)—The Panamanian Government and Justice Ministry today ordered the temporary suspension of the opposition radio program "The Voice of the ADOC" for broadcasting alleged "false reports," the director of the program, Christian Democratic [PDC] Legislator Guillermo Cochez, has announced.

Cochez said the government's Media Directorate accused him of broadcasting "false reports about the behavior of high-ranking government officials" and summoned him to appear within the next 3 days "to prove these reports."

The legislator has repeatedly reported the alleged use of government resources to support the National Liberation Coalition (COLINA) campaign.

The Media Directorate 2 weeks ago declared "illegal" the weekly "LA ESTRELLA VERDE CIVILISTA," the propaganda and information publication of the oppposition PDC, for allegedly omitting information on where it was printed and who was responsible for its content.

Seven opposition media have been closed for 14 months, accused of "actions against the state's security and economy."

Issues Decree on Suspension

PA1804145189 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Apr 89 pp 24, 9

["Text" of resolution issued by the Government and Justice Ministry's Media Directorate in Panama City on 17 April]

[Text] The national media director, duly authorized by the Government and Justice Ministry, states the following:

Mr Guillermo Alberto Cochez Farrugia, male, Panamanian, of legal age, cedula No 8-139-798, transmitted on the radio program called "The Voice of the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance]," carried by Circuito RPC Radio on 12 April, information on the conduct of top government officials.

This is prohibited by Paragraph A, Article 15, of Law 11 of 10 February 1978.

According to Article 85 of the 1972 Constitution, "the media are the instruments of information, education, recreation, and cultural and scientific reporting. When used for publicity and advertising, they should not be harmful to the health, morals, education, and culture of society and national identity."

It is the duty of the Government and Justice Ministry to supervise, regulate, and inspect all radio broadcasts, and in this regard, it must obey and enforce all regulations regarding radio broadcasts.

Resolves:

First: To grant 3 working days to Mr Guillermo Alberto Cochez Farrugia, a well-known person, to present evidence of the truthfulness of his statements carried on Circuito RPC Radio on 12 April 1989.

Second: To temporarily suspend the program called "The Voice of the ADOC," which is on the air from Monday to Friday on Circuito RPC Radio under the direction of Mr Guillermo Cochez.

Based on: Law 11 of 10 February 1978.

Signed in Panama City, 17 April 1989

To be promulgated and executed

Luis Romero Villalobos, national media director

Osvaldo Gudino Aguilar, ad hoc secretary

Catholic Church Reports Caritas Chief 'Missing'

PA1804144789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1422 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian lawyer Carlos Lee, director of Caritas and of the Catholic Church's Social Pastoral Office, has been "missing" since 15 April, sources at the Archbishopric reported today.

The same sources told ACAN-EFE that the Catholic Church hierarchy has not received any communication from the authorities regarding Lee's case.

On 15 April, the 30-year-old lawyer was driving a rented car, which he used for his pastoral duties. The car also has not been located, Lee's relatives noted.

[Paris AFP in Spanish at 2354 GMT on 17 April in a similar report adds that Lee had been "extensively" participating in a series of lectures to parishes "to teach the people about their right to vote on 7 May."]

Reports 'Safe and Sound'

PA1804223689 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2216 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Colon Bishop Msgr Carlos Maria Aris this afternoon reported that lawyer Carlos Lee, director of Caritas and of the Catholic Church's Social Pastoral Office and who had been reported missing, is "safe and sound."

Since Saturday, the Catholic Church and Lee's family had received no news about Lee's whereabouts. Lee will return this afternoon to Panama City from Colon, a port city on the Caribbean coast.

Msgr Aris said that the lawyer will return to Panama City accompanied by three Cuban immigrants, who have spent the last 3 days with him. Msgr Aris gave no details on the Cuban immigrants.

The bishop said that the 30-year-old Lee will hold a news conference tomorrow to explain the reasons for his absence. Msgr Aris added that he had had no information concerning Lee's whereabouts during the past 3 days.

The Bishop of Colon told a group of reporters that "this was not a political matter, and the authorities we approached during the past 4 days offered us constructive help. Nevertheless, we had been worried."

Detained by U.S. Military

PA1904044589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0411 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 18 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—Carlos Manuel Lee, the director of Caritas and the Panama Catholic Church's social pastoral office, was held for 3 days by U.S. forces stationed in Panama. Lee was reported missing on 15 April and reappeared today.

The Panama archdiocese told ACAN-EFE that Lee was detained on Saturday, 15 April, by U.S. soldiers when he was near Fort Sherman, a U.S. military base near the city of Colon on Panama's Atlantic coast.

In a communique, Panama Archbishop Marco Gregorio McGrath and Colon Bishop Carlos Maria Aris expressed their "protest over this evident disregard for basic human rights." They said U.S. soldiers arrested Carlos Manuel Lee and three companions of Cuban nationality but did not inform their families or the authorities.

The church authorities' communique lamented "the U.S. authorities' lack of coordination and the inconsiderate manner in which they handled this incident."

The bishops said the Caritas director's arrest "violated the right to legal counsel of a Panamanian citizen in his own country and of three foreign citizens who have legal documents issued by the Panamanian immigration authorities."

The U.S. Southern Command in Panama has not issued any report on Lee's arrest.

According to the report issued by the Caritas office and the Panamanian archdiocese, the U.S. military authorities "justified these arrests on security grounds."

The Caritas director and his two friends were arrested while taking "tourist-type" photographs near the base. According to statements made by the detainees following their reappearance, the U.S. authorities realized this when they developed the film.

The church said that all the time they were being held, "Lee and his friends were not allowed to contact their families or any other person to advise them of their situation."

The Panamanian church "regrets this incident, which affects and offends all Panamanians equally." The church expresses its hope that "this latest chapter in the history of our relations with the United States will contribute to a more mature relationship."

In their communique, the bishops express their hope that relations between Panama and the United States—which for almost 2 years have been undergoing a deep crisis—be based "on the necessary respect among peoples."

COLINA Presidential Candidate Interviewed

FL1904011589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Interview with Carlos Duque Jaen, presidential candidate for the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, by Cuban correspondent Nelson Notario Castro in Panama; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Notario Castro] Mr Duque, the first question is, does COLINA have real possibilities of winning the 7 May elections?

[Duque Jaen] I should tell you that the National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, is a coalition of political parties of different ideological platforms but with a common denominator, with a common goal and objective, which is the project for the liberation of the sovereignty and the project for independence.

I believe that ultimately, more than an election, what is going to be at stake is the future of the country. The people have to decide whether they want to be a colony or a free country. Definitely, Panamanians do not give in and Panamanians do not want their country to be a colony. This is why COLINA's triumph in the next elections can already be felt, can already be seen. Besides, the people are Torrijos followers, the people love freedom, peace, and tranquillity. I think that definitely.... [changes thought] It's not that I think, victory is ours.

COLINA is going to show next 7 May that the Panamanian people support the COLINA presidential candidacy. The COLINA government will prevail, with the slogan, Not a Step Back and the Dignity Battalions, that is, the armed people. Not a Step Back refers to our nationalist position, our firm support to General Manuel Antonio Noriega in his nationalist position, our support and solidarity to the Defense Force, rather, the people's marriage with the Armed Forces. The Dignity Battalions represent worthy people who are alert and will always be in a state of vigilance to defend our territory, our sovereignty. They would be battalions that, at a given time, would be next to the Defense Forces alert to any kind of aggression or intervention.

[Notario Castro] Thank you, Mr Duque, for these remarks for the Cuban television news services.

COLINA To Get 'Over 65 Percent of Votes'

PA1804194189 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 18 Apr 89 pp 1, 10

[Text] Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma has said the oligarchs want to return to power to serve their personal interests and turn public property over to private hands. The oligarchs want everything they handle as public officials to become personal property, which is what many persons who have now gone over to the opposition had done. Those persons got rich skimming government resources, he added. Solis Palma urged Torrijists to renew the Torrijos doctrine, modernize it, and expand it so it is more in tune with current demands to bring social services to the community. Although these services are unprofitable, the low-income sectors need them, he noted.

The president stressed we have to "purge the public administration to destroy our internal enemies; people undergoing hardships are demoralized when they see the government cannot hire them because enemies of the revolutionary process are holding government jobs." The president urged government employees to work tirelessly 24 hours each day to defend our nation, because our nation is at stake in the next elections, where "the opposition, in collusion with the United States, wants to take power to sell and renounce the achievements which we attained throughout the revolutionary process and which have cost so much sweat and sacrifice."

During a meeting with over 400 mid-level officials of the Government and Justice Ministry, Postal Office, Public Registry, Civil Aeronautics Office, and National Institute of Telecommunications, and all governors and mayors—who played a key role during the meeting—it was clearly established that the elections will result in victory for the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] with over 65 percent of the votes. This information was obtained through contacts with each province's grassroots organizations.

President Solis urged the governors, ministers, directors of autonomous agencies, mayors, and all top-ranking government officials to work tirelessly, "because being silent and idle amounts to sedition, and because the people deserve our tireless work for them, moved by a renewed, modernized, and improved Torrijos spirit."

Cocle Governor Climaco Quejada, Darien Governor Julio Cesar Quintar, Los Santos Governor Rafael Martinez, Herrera Governor Nestor Delgado, Bocas de Toro Governor Gabriel Monsalve, Chiriqui Governor Manuel Torres, Veraguas Governor Mateo Castillero, Colon Governor Riccioti Emiliani, and Panama Governor Ramon Pereira then talked about the problems that initially caused the COLINA slate to maintain a low profile. However, thanks to hard work and an extensive campaign to raise the people's awareness, support for the government slate has increased to the point where COLINA is certain of receiving at least 65 percent of the votes in the upcoming elections.

Electoral Tribunal Official on Election Plans

PA1804132489 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Interview with Electoral Tribunal Secretary General Carlos Bonilla by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bonilla] We have just concluded a 2-day—13-14 April—nationwide tour during which we explained the procedures to be followed to the coordinators, supervisors, and inspectors who will be working the various circuits throughout the country. We have completed that phase; on 22 and 23 April, especially 22 April, we will be meeting with the Electoral Tribunal's voting table representatives. These meetings will be attended by all voting table presidents, secretaries, and spokespersons. These meetings have been scheduled to be held simultaneously throughout the country on 22 April.

On 23 April, all personnel who will be working the multicandidate [plurinominal: more than one candidate on the ballot] circuits where the quotient [cociente: number of votes cast divided by number of seats available], half-quotient [medio cociente], and residual [residuo: seat assigned to party winning a majority of votes when other parties have not achieved the required quotient] must be applied, will attend special work sessions. We are ready to travel next week to instruct our personnel on the various procedures.

[Reporter] The Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance parties continue to charge irregularities in the process, especially involving the election lists. What can you tell us about this?

[Bonilla] I have repeatedly said that we have no proof at the Electoral Tribunal that they have presented formal charges. You hear these charges on radio and television,

but they have not come to the Tribunal to present them. This is proof that—I do not want to say that they are lying—these charges are not true.

For example, people have come here to say they had voted at a specific place and now they appear on the list as voting someplace else. After investigating these complaints, we have found these people came to the Tribunal and gave an address different than their earlier one. Obviously, the person is shown on the list as voting near his home address. Most of the cases we have heard have to do with this type of problem.

Over Million Voters Expected

PA1804182289 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 18 Apr 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by Roberto R. Rodriguez]

[Text] Carlos Bonilla, Panamanian Electoral Tribunal [TEP] secretary general, has confirmed to MATUTINO that 1.184 million voters should officially cast ballots in the 7 May 1989 elections in 4,255 voting centers distributed throughout the country.

After confirming the official figure, Bonilla said the TEP "has completed" all the phases of the election preparation and that everything "is going well" and is ready for the 7 May elections. On 7 May, Panamanians will elect one president, two vice presidents, 67 legislators, and 506 corregimiento representatives.

Bonilla announced that on 22 and 23 April, TEP will begin its seminars for TEP officials who will be working at the voting centers and electoral district boards of "multicandidate" [plurinominal] districts. The topics to be discussed at those seminars are "quotients [cocientes], half-quotients, and residuals [residuos]."

Reporting on the various cases of contested candidates, Bonilla said all cases have been resolved except for two. The decision on those two cases will be released in the next few hours; then TEP will issue the official list of qualified candidates on 20 April.

Bonilla added that TEP's economic problems have been overcome, because—despite the limitations the national government is facing—the system being used has allowed a functional and normal use of "cash flow."

Last week, TEP held training seminars for election supervisors, inspectors, and coordinators throughout the country's election districts to give TEP personnel details on the fine way preparations for the election process are developing.

The TEP sources also said they have not authorized the operations in Panama of an information center sponsored by the U.S. Senate's Western Hemisphere Affairs Subcommittee.

Opposition Invites 800 Observers to Elections

PA1804153089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0225 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 17 Apr (AFP)—Official sources have announced that Panama's opposition has invited approximately 800 widely known figures from throughout the world—former heads of state, political leaders, artists, and clergy—to observe the general elections on 7 May.

ADOC's [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] guest list includes former Presidents Jimmy Carter of the United States and Jaime Lusinchi of Venezuela, and singers Jose Luis Rodriguez of Venezuela and Julio Iglesias of Spain.

Civic Crusade coordinator Carlos Abadia explained that the invitations were sent directly by the Civic Crusade, Panamanian Human Rights Committee, ADOC, and independent groups in the United States.

ADOC offered to pay their guests' air travel expenses, lodgings, food, and transportation.

Meanwhile, the Electoral Tribunal [TEP] has officially asked the Electoral Advice and Promotion Center [CAPEL], an affiliate of the Inter-American Human Rights Institute, to send 30 observers to the election.

However, diplomatic sources believe CAPEL will decline TEP's invitation because of supposed defects in the organization of the elections.

According to Panama's election authorities, only CAPEL representatives will be considered official observers; therefore, they will be the only ones authorized to request all the information they may wish regarding the development of the elections.

The government's National Liberation Coalition, COLINA, announced it will not invite any observers, as a sign of its respect for the TEP decision to entrust that task to CAPEL's representatives.

Approximately 100 private institutions involved in the Civic Crusade recently formed a "Committee of Support for Independent Observers."

Meanwhile, a U.S. bipartisan organization, the Center for Democracy, announced it will install another information center for the observers and warned if it is not allowed to operate in Panama, it would fulfill its mission from neighboring Costa Rica.

The center's president, Allen Weinstein, explained that his organization has carried out similar missions in Chile and the Philippines over the past few years and that the task of following up the Panamanian elections was entrusted to his group by the U.S. Senate's Hemispheric Affairs Subcommittee.

The presence in Panama of delegates from the Center for Democracy has been severely criticized by the progovernment press, which feels it is harmful to Panama's sovereign interests.

Law Dean Criticizes Government Support of PRD

PA1804143789 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The opposition has charged that there are many election irregularities. Edgardo Molino Mola, dean of the University of Panama Law School, comments on this. The following are his statements:

[Begin Molino recording] I believe the Panamanian people will be loyal when they vote for democracy; they will be great once they have ended this state of oppression, this de facto state; and Panamanians will live free, because on 7 May they will vote for freedom rather than oppression and dictatorship. [end recording]

Molino Mola also talked about the government's outright support for the National Liberation Coalition:

[Begin Molino recording] The Electoral Code contains a series of descriptions of election crimes. For example, official support for a party is an election crime. This is established in the Electoral Code. If you were to visit a government office, you would see official propaganda; if you were to visit a government office, you would find a Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] political committee. You can see how government employees are forced to attend rallies, and you can see how government employees are forced to bring two or three persons to sign up as PRD members. You will even find government employees who say they are happy to get paid with IOU's or not get paid on time. You can even see a candidate visiting the jails and then state that the prisoners are PRD members and that prisoners in Panama are the happiest people in the world. [end recording]

Citizens Reject Computer Election Center

PA1804160789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Apr 89 pp 1, 16

[Text] The entire Panamanian community has rejected the alleged "computer-operated center or center for election information" that would act parallel to the Panamanian Electoral Tribunal [TEP], which is the government institution in charge of running the 7 May elections.

Nils Castro, Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, foreign affairs secretary, said yesterday that no one has the right to set up—from abroad—an organization intended to usurp or supervise the Panamanian Government's functions or institutions, such as TEP, the National Vote Counting Board, or the media. No one can do that, much less those who are the cause [of Panamanian problems] and part of what Panama is rejecting: the Washington establishment.

In a communique released last night, Panamanian Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon stated that his office "will not give a permit to any private individual or legal entity wishing to carry out those tasks in our country."

In yesterday's issue, a local newspaper reported that a U.S. business was planning to set up an office here in Panama to work in parallel with the TEP during the counting of the votes of the 7 May elections.

The PRD, Panama's largest party, said thorugh its spokesman Nils Castro that the purpose of this parallel computer-operated center is to spread "disinformation about the elections and the voters."

"Those busybodies must leave Panama" is the general consensus and outcry of a community that is sick and tired of so much interference in its domestic affairs.

President Signs Law on Embassy Real Estate

PA1804141589 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Apr 89 pp 2, 10

[Report by Rogelio Martiz]

[Text] Panamanian Presidency Minister Nander Pitti Velasquez has returned the law regulating constitutional Article 285, on the acquisition of real estate for embassy sites, which was duly signed by the executive branch.

The law approved in the third debate by the Panamanian Legislative Assembly plenum states that for the purpose of constitutional Article 285, the nations with which Panama maintains diplomatic relations will be allowed to acquire one or more real estate sites within Panamanian territory. The acquisitions will be carried out after reaching an agreement through diplomatic channels and after a due exchange of notes, thus fulfilling the demands of the current law.

It is important to point out that until 1972, the Panamanian Constitution banned the acquisition of any real estate within Panamanian territory by foreign governments. In view of that constitutional limitation, Panama signed contracts with Cuba (1914), Spain (1921), the United Kingdom (1929), Italy (1938), and the United States (1941). As a result of those contracts, the Panamanian Government had leased land to the respective foreign governments for the building of permanent structures. Those buildings would serve as the site of the respective diplomatic missions. The leasing of the land was made for the symbolic price of 1 balboa, and contracts were valid for many years. The contracts of four of the aforementioned countries have already expired.

The Constitution issued in 1983 bans the acquisition of real estate within Panamanian territory by any foreign government, except if the real estate is acquired to establish embassy sites.

Argentina

Doubts Expressed Over New Economic Plan

PY1704003289 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 15 Apr 89 p 5

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Opposition political leaders expressed doubts yesterday as to Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese's ability to manage the economic crisis through the new monetary and fiscal measures which he announced on Thursday.

Radical Party National Convention Chairman Conrado Storani said that Pugliese's plans were "too cautious," and he concurred with both Peronist and Radical Party presidential candidates that an across-the-board wage hike was needed in order to alleviate March and April inflationary pressures.

General Labour Confederation (CGT) leader Saul Ubaldini also agreed, saying that "wage hikes were conspicuously absent from Thursday's announcements."

Meanwhile, Centrist Alliance (UCeDe) presidential candidate Alvaro Alsogaray said that "it would take a miracle to keep dollar values down," while commenting that the measures were contradictory because the government "was going to apply import duties at the same time as it was unifying exchange rates."

Alsogaray's fellow party member Buenos Aires UCeDe chief Federico Zamora added that "the unification of exchange rates was a very good and important idea," but it should not have been accompanied by other policies which will be detrimental to various sectors of the economy, especially the agricultural sector, which now has to deal with excessive export duties. For his part, Agricultural and Livestock Secretary Ernesto Figueras said that on the contrary "the agricultural sector was being treated fairly for the first time as exchange rates were now the same for both farm and industrial exports." He added that farm incomes would increase under the new plan.

Buenos Aires United Left Deputy Luis Zamora commented that the new monetary and fiscal polices were "brutal" and that a 100 percent wage increase was desperately needed. Zamora also called for an immediate price freeze.

In turn, Independent Federalist Confederation deputy hopeful Santiago Estrada placed special emphasis on pensioners, who he said needed an immediate 1,000 austral pension increase.

"Inflation over the past two months has reduced consumption levels of pensioners to undignified levels," he said.

Peronist economist Eduardo Curia said that the new measures worried him because a unified exchange rate would create problems in the future, while fellow party economist Domingo Cavallo added that a huge gap could develop between import and export dollar values. "Much depends on what level the import level will be set," Cavallo said. "If it is set too high costs of production will increase and this will effect export competitivity."

Callo also predicted that the Central Bank would keep interest rates high to avoid constant dollar purchasing.

In other comments, Movement for Integration and Development leader Rogilio Frigerio said the plans would only "increase inflation, make products even more scarce, trample down wages and deepen the recession."

General Industrial Confederation President Rafael Kohanoff added that the new measures were the product of the power of speculators in Argentina and that they dealt yet another blow to industry.

Dollar Exchange Rate Climbs 20 Percent

PY1904023789 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0032 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 18 Apr (EFE)—The Argentine austral was devalued today by 20 percent with regard to the U.S. dollar on the first day of full implementation of the measures adopted by the new economy minister, Juan Carlos Pugliese.

The U.S. dollar climbed today in Argentina to 66 australes per dollar, but it closed at 65.5 per dollar; that is, 27 percent higher than the rate prevailing on 14 April, when the latest economic measures were adopted.

On 13 April, when the Argentine economic officials decreed a bank and money exchange holiday, the U.S. dollar exchange rate stood at 55 australes.

Interest rates have climbed to 45 percent monthly on the interbanking market [mercado interempresario], in which no expert dares make a prediction. [passage omitted]

CNEA Chairman Praises Research Achievements

PY1704222289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1900 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Bariloche, 17 Apr (TELAM)—Emma Perez Ferreira, chairwoman of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy [CNEA], has noted the importance of "maintaining the excellent level of basic research" and said she is sure that the new economy minister will grant the commission "significant support." Perez Ferreira made this statement during a recent visit to the Bariloche nuclear plant.

The CNEA chairwoman also mentioned the FRG credits obtained to finish (in 1994) the Atucha II plant and the Swiss loan for the heavy water industrial plant that is scheduled to become operational next year. Perez Ferreira pointed out that "we have achieved something

quite unusual by obtaining foreign credits to finance local projects. She then explained that "it is difficult to obtain foreign loans for Argentine enterprises that offer supplies and services."

When asked about her visit to the Bariloche atomic plant, Perez Ferreira said that "this is a good example of what can be achieved through a good level of basic research programs carried out over a long enough time."

Regarding the achievements of the local nuclear plant, she said that "we repeated the experience of the superconductivity of ceramic exposed to high temperatures a week after the phenomena had been discovered, and obtained the same results. This gives our country a great advantage for entering the superconductivity era."

Regarding cold nuclear fusion tests, which have caused great repercussions among the various CNEA research teams that are individually trying to repeat the experience, she said that "from our point of view, these isolated efforts should be coordinated under the supervision of the CNEA research and development director, headquartered in Buenos Aires."

Answering another question regarding the presidential candidates, the CNEA chairwoman said that "we have not maintained contact with any candidate; however, some CNEA members are militants of some of the majority parties and they convey the commission's ideas and problems."

Bolivia

Observers for Presidential Elections Named

PY1804192389 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Eight countries and two organizations will send observers to the upcoming May presidential elections.

The National Electoral Court has received separate notes confirming the arrival of observers and possibly some "experts" who will act as advisors to the Electoral Court.

According to the notes, Ecuador has designated Patricio Bueno and Ghandi Burbano, members of the Supreme Electoral Court; Uruguay has appointed Hernan Pucurull and Pablo Garcia Pinto, members of the Electoral Court.

Italy will send judges Giussepe Consoli and Amadeo Franco; Costa Rica will send Gonzalo Brenes Camacho and Issac Ortiz Chacon, members of the Supreme Electoral Court.

Guatemala has designated Gabriel Medina Valenzuela and Fernando Antonio Bonilla Montero and Honduras has appointed Angel Davis Reyes, Tomas Lozano, and Roberto Callejas from the Electoral Court.

Uruguay will also send Horacio Canepa and Belmote Souza.

The OAS has confirmed that it will send Faisal Mustafa Barbosa and Santiago Ramponi, while CAPEL [Electoral Advice and Promotion Center, affiliated with the Inter-American Human Rights Institute] will designate its observers in the next few days.

National Electoral Court President Mauro Cuellar Caballero said that the presence of the visitors will prove to the world the fairness of the elections.

Minister Clarifies Antidrug Jurisdiction

PY1804135889 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Interior Minister Eduardo Perez Beltran has flatly denied a report that the president has ordered the Armed Forces to take charge of the fight against drug trafficking. The president, the minister said, respects the jurisdiction of Bolivian institutions and he has not ordered the suspension of the activities of the special joint task force. The force, which is made up of police, Army, Navy, and Air Force troops and was created for the specific purpose of fighting drug trafficking, provides logistic support to UNOPAR [Mobile Units for Rural Areas]

[Begin Perez Beltran recording] I deny the report on the instructions allegedly given by the president, who respects the jurisdiction of Bolivian institutions. The special joint task force has not been ordered to stop operating. [end recording]

The minister added that he ordered an investigation into the source of the reports to find out whether they have been distorted. The investigation will be conducted by the task force commander.

Perez Beltran concluded by saying that in order to successfully fight drug trafficking, Bolivia needs the support of countries involved in drug trafficking and consumption, adding that the support that has been given so far cannot yet guarantee successful results.

Tax Breaks for New Industries, Coffee Exports

PY1804190389 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Apr 89 p 1

[Excerpts] The government yesterday promulgated a decree under which imported raw materials for newly installed manufacturing industries in Oruro and Potosi are exempted from import taxes for 5 years.

The decree reads as follows:

Article 1. The import of raw materials, providing they are not produced anywhere in the country and providing they are to be submitted to a manufacturing process by

new industries that will be established in the departments of Oruro and Potosi, will be exempted from taxes under the terms of Laws 876, 877, and 967.

This exemption will remain in force for a period of 5 years as of the date on which production activities are initiated. [passage omitted]

Through another decree that was signed yesterday by the Executive Branch, coffee exports will also be exempted from taxes. This decree reads as follows:

Article 1. Processed or raw coffee grains are, as of today, exempted from export taxes. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Foreign Ministry Denies Closing Beirut Embassy

PY1904011989 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The Brazilian Foreign Ministry has denied the reported closure of the Brazilian Embassy in Lebanon. Brazil has never thought of closing its embassy in Lebanon, because relations between the two countries are normal.

Moreover, Brazil has not submitted any note to the Beirut government to inform them that Brazil's charge d'affairs in Beirut, Alcir Rabello, has transferred his office to Biblos. This happened for a simple reason: the intensification of the fighting in Beirut. The sector where the Brazilian Embassy is located is beginning to experience infrastructure problems, such as a lack of water, light, telephone, and telex services.

Since the problem was solved today, Tuesday, Alcir Rabello has already returned to Beirut. The telephone and telex lines are working again, although precariously.

Itamaraty spokesman Rui Nogueira has stated that the shelling that killed the Spanish ambassador to Lebanon will not change Brazil's position on maintaining its embassy in Beirut. He did not deny, however, that the intensification of the fighting is worrying Brazil.

Aeronautics Minister on Military, Elections

PY1904020889 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Aeronautics Minister Octavio Moreira Lima has stated that there are absolutely no doubts about the role of the Armed Forces within the transition process toward the democratic normalization in Brazil. Moreira Lima believes that if the left wins in the presidential elections, it would be the decision of society; as such it would have to be respected.

The aeronautics minister made these remarks during a change-of-command ceremony at the COMGEP [General Personnel Command], in the presence of Aeronautics Chief of Staff Brigadier Cherubim da Rosa Filho and all the members of the high command.

Brigadier Humberto Fiuzza handed over his post as COMGEP commander to Brigadier Marcio Terezino Drummond.

Scientists Achieve Cold Nuclear Fusion

PY1904010489 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Brazil today began a new energy era by achieving cold nuclear fusion [fusao nuclear a frio]. This fusion, which has been repeated in several laboratories throughout the world since its discovery in the United States less than a month ago, could become the cheapest and cleanest way of producing energy.

Nuclear fusion is theoretically simple. Two electrodes and a thermometer are placed in a glass filled with heavy water. The first electrode is a platinum rod with a positive electric charge. The second electrode is a rod made of palladium, a precious metal that is electrically negative.

The heavy water has its hydrogen atoms replaced by a heavier atom, deuterium. With the electric current, the deuterium atoms are attracted by the palladium and penetrate the palladium molecules, thus creating a fusion.

This fusion results in the formation of a helium atom, a neutron, and energy generated in the form of heat.

Scientists from Sao Paulo University have concluded an experiment of cold nuclear fusion. They only measured the release of neutrons, which confirms the nuclear fusion. In this first test, the scientists did not yet measure the amount of energy obtained.

Minas Gerais Metalworkers Begin Strike

PY1904023989 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Acominas [Minas Gerais Steel Company] metalworkers from Ouro Branco, Minas Gerais State, have begun a strike. They are demanding a wage increase of 106 percent beginning in May.

Acominas contractor company workers also joined the strike. A group of Acominas employees are occupying the steel plant.

Sao Paulo metalworkers decided to begin the strike tomorrow. The Sao Paulo regional labor court has decided that the readjustment for metalworkers should be 29 percent. This rate does not include other benefits achieved previously. The metalworkers want an increase of 184 percent.

Health Ministry Reports AIDS Statistics

PY1504014289 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Text] Since 1980, 6,202 AIDS cases have been registered in the country, resulting in 3,119 deaths. The Health Ministry said today that 490 AIDS cases were reported in March, 43 of which were positively diagnosed. In terms of population density, Sao Paulo continues to lead the statistics with 132.6 cases per million people; next are Rio de Janeiro and the Federal District. Tocantins State has registered the lowest number of cases, 1.1 per million people. Santos is the municipality with the highest rate of incidence, with 454.5 cases per million people.

According to Lair Guerra de Macedo, director of the National AIDS Division of the Health Ministry, Brazil still lacks an efficient epidemiological monitoring system. Should this system operate to perfection, it would help to make early diagnoses of this disease, thus making it possible to prolong the patients' lives. Of the 490 cases reported in March, 23 were children, 57 women, and 410 men.

Chile

Lawyer Blames U.S. Diplomat for Poisoned Fruit

PY1804191289 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Lawyer and businessman Ricardo Claro Valdez has reported that George Jones, deputy chief of mission of the U.S. Embassy in Santiago, planned the sabotage of Chilean fruit. He said that Jones will be appointed Latin American operations chief of the NSC in Washington. Claro's statement was confirmed today at 1130 when it was learned that THE WASHINGTON TIMES today reported that President George Bush has disapproved Jones' appointment. [sentence as heard]

Claro made these statements during his usual Tuesday commentary on the early morning newscast of Radio Chilena. Claro, who is carrying out an exhaustive investigation with the help of U.S. lawyers, mentioned other strange facts in the poisoned grape case.

[Begin Claro recording] Second [as heard], I wish to refer to an extremely interesting issue. LA EPOCA newspaper, which apparently is very well-informed, reported on 15 April on page 19 that, quote, Judge (Jurak) was requested to summon Guido Flores Chacon, 28, to testify in court. Flores worked for a day and a half in the Campolindo fruit farm from which the poisoned grapes came, unquote.

Summoning this man to court—a man who worked only on 13 March, the same day the United States prohibited Chilean fruit imports—is curious. [end recording]

Curiously, on 18 March, Claro added, Flores participated in a table television program in which U.S. Charge d'Affairs [title as heard] George Jones also participated.

[Begin Claro recording] Speaking about Mr Jones, he is currently trying to earn a promotion. He wants to be the NSC's Latin American operations chief. This seems to be a deserved promotion for one of the brains of the Chilean fruit sabotage plan.

I will now begin giving names. Many months ago, George Jones, a man with a childlike face but not as innocent a soul, asked me what effect a U.S. embargo on Chilean fruits would have on Chile. I was referring to him and others on the Having Lunch program on Channel 13 television. [end recording]

According to THE WASHINGTON TIMES, Jones' appointment as Latin American operations chief was rejected by the Republican Party because he is an active liberal. THE WASHINGTON TIMES states that although his appointment was confirmed, his dismissal has yet not been officially announced. [sentence as heard]

Strike-Related Violence, Incidents Reported

Youths Rally for Strike

PY1504222289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] A demonstration against the government was staged at bus stop no 1 on Carrera Avenue.

The demonstrators also voiced their support for the Central Labor Union [CUT] and their nationwide strike, scheduled for Tuesday 18 April.

A large number of youths gathered at the aforementioned site to voice their opposition to the current government. The demonstrators behaved shamefully by smoking marijuana and destroying the surroundings.

It was disclosed that the meeting was organized by opposition political groups linked to the Coalition of Opposition Parties. Most of those participating in the demonstration wore red handkerchiefs to cover their faces and threw stones.

Carabineros had to intervene to stop the demonstrators, who reacted by throwing stones and trying to wound some officers. Some four Carabinero cars came to the location, transporting weapons and teargas bombs, but no weapons were fired. However, the teargas bombs caused people to leave the site.

Partial Blackout in Santiago

PY1804032789 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0256 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Santiago, 17 Apr (AFP)—A partial blackout occurred tonight in several sectors of Santiago shortly before the start of a general strike called by the powerful CUT.

Police sources said the blackout affected the downtown area, including the Plaza de Armas, and the outskirts of the city, where demonstrators made fires and erected barricades.

Some witnesses told local radio stations that explosions were heard outside the downtown area before the power outage, which occurred at around 2230 local time (0230 GMT).

Bus Station, Vehicle Burned

PY1804154389 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] A terrorist command has attacked and burned a bus station in Concepcion, causing considerable damage. The attack was considered to be a warning to labor unions that refused to join today's strike.

Police continue combing the area to capture the terrorist command that burned Costa Azul's bus station—and a bus owned by the same firm—in Concepcion. Losses were estimated at 5 million pesos.

A group of seven terrorists from the self-styled Lautaro Youth Front—the group included one woman—staged what the police called a lightning raid. The group, armed with handguns and one automatic rifle, threatened the guard, forcing him to flee. Other group members forced passengers out of a bus scheduled to depart for Tome. The terrorists then doused the bus station and the bus, license plate no HE-2507, with gasoline and set them on fire. The group then fled toward the subway tracks after dropping leaflets containing political slogans against the government signed by the Lautaro Youth Front.

Police sources have said that this group is also suspected of participating in the attack on the Villacero police station on 14 April and the attempt to burn a timber warehouse at (Puerto Iriquen). The police continue the intense search in the area. No one was injured during the incident.

In another incident, terrorists placed a bomb at a bus stop in Santiago. The incident occurred on the corner of Americo Vespucio and Madre Selva Streets around 2300 last night. The bus stop belongs to a bus line covering the route to Los Leones. A bystander was injured and was immediately taken to a hospital.

Power Grid Attacks Noted

PY1804221489 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpts] The flow of public transport vehicles has dropped by approximately 20 or 30 percent in downtown Santiago. On the outskirts of the city we have verified that the situation is a little worse. The circulation of buses there has dropped by 50 to 60 percent today, the day of the strike called by the CUT. [passage omitted]

The police have reported that in the most conflictive zones, in the southern and eastern areas, people have erected barricades and lit bonfires, but no incidents have been reported.

According to police sources, two people were injured during the past few hours when two power pylons were destroyed. Several private buildings were damaged by eight bomb attacks in different places in Santiago, and in other nearby areas.

The injured people have been identified as Carlos Toledo from the Los Leones Bus Terminal, and Jorge Villablanca, a pedestrian who was walking near the National Bank building on the corner of Alameda Avenue and Rodolfo Filippi Streets.

The series of attacks began at 2245 last night when power pylon no 664 of a high tension line was destroyed. At 2315 power tower no 430 from the Itague-Alto Jaguel line was also destroyed by a powerful bomb.

At 2245 last night a bomb went off at the Chilean Telephone Company Commercial Plant on the corner of Salvador Sanfuentes and Union Americana Streets. This explosion broke windows.

At 2320 another bomb went off at La Cisterna City Hall at 8585 Carrera Avenue. At 2400 a bomb exploded at the National Bank branch office on the corner of Rodolfo Street and Alameda Avenue. At 0045, at 450 Eyzaguirre Street, San Bernardo neighborhood, 2 kg of anfo [ammonium nitrate-fuel oil blasting agent] destroyed most of the San Bernardo City Hall facade.

Finally, at 0200 this morning, at 1261 John Kennedy Street, La Florida neighborhood, a private house was partially destroyed by the explosion of a bomb consisting of 200 grams of anfo. [passage omitted]

Rodolfo Penhard, public relations chief of National Electric Power, Inc. [ENDESA], has reported that the supply of electricity has been cut by 12 percent in the metropolitan area. He said that five power towers were destroyed in different sectors of the country and two others damaged.

[Begin Penhard recording] The electricity supply was practically normalized at 1100 today, but the 12-percent cut still applies. Five power towers were destroyed in

different parts of the country, and two others were partially damaged. ENDESA personnel have been working in the field seeking to normalize the service by early this afternoon. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The CUT has reiterated that the call for a general strike is absolutely peaceful. CUT's acting President Diego Olivares has stated that any action that is not in keeping with the instructions given for the strike is not the responsibility of the CUT.

[Begin Olivares recording] I want to take this opportunity to ratify that our call for strike is absolutely peaceful. We hope that the workers and all those who have expressed solidarity with us and who have joined the strike will limit their actions to those specified by the CUT. Any acts beyond the framework of the peaceful strike are not the responsibility of the CUT. On the contrary, we want to emphasize that violent action is counterproductive to the workers' interests.

We are certain that all those who have contributed to our movement will remain within the guidelines outlined by our organization. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Carabineros Report

PY1904022189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] This is a complete report that the Carabineros released this afternoon concerning recent events in Santiago and Valparaiso:

At 0615 this morning Oscar Fernando Zamora Haya was arrested on the corner of Alfredo Lobos Street and La Feria Avenue while trying to place a bomb inside a telephone switch box of the Chilean Telephone company. Some 45 minutes later a bomb exploded at the Jose Maria Caro branch of the Bank of Chile. The explosion damaged the metal shutters, and experts have estimated that the bomb was made of 400 grams of an explosive known as R-1 [not further identified].

At 1000 this morning, Carabineros arrested Pablo Parada Apa Blasa, 18, and Claudio Tapia Orellano, 18, in the (Color Oriente) neighborhood. The two individuals were throwing tire-puncturing devices designed to disrupt public transport services.

At the corner of San Diego and Ines de Aguilera Streets in La Cisterna neighborhood, Carabineros arrested two students of the A109 Lyceum. They were identified as R.R.E.S., age 17, and L.C.G.M., age 16. The two youngsters were carrying three Molotov cocktails in their rucksacks.

At 1200, at the corner of Mariquina and (Pedro Luna) Streets, in Jose Maria Caro neighborhood, two suspects were sighted near a store. The suspects escaped, leaving behind a bag that contained 2.5 kg of anfo [ammonium nitrate-fuel oil blasting agent]. At the same time a truck—license plate HY4454—belonging to a dehydrated meat company was stopped at the intersection of (La Encalada) and Via 8 Street. A group of approximately 100 persons stole all the merchandise that the truck was carrying. The goods were valued at 150,000 pesos. The mob also stole 50,000 pesos in cash that driver Carlos Perez Mendez was carrying.

Some 200 people demonstrated near the Justice Palace at the intersection of Compania and Bandera Streets. Police forces broke up this demonstration.

At 1240 two individuals set on fire a bus that was making the Canal San Carlos-73d Street run. This incident took place at the intersection of La Estrella Avenue and (Iranillo) Street, in Lo Prado neighborhood. The bus was totally destroyed, but no one was hurt.

At 1300 this afternoon, on the corner of Blanco and Beaucheef Streets, approximately 200 students of the University of Chile School of Engineering staged a demonstration and disrupted traffic by erecting barricades. Carabineros arrested 16 persons in this incident.

According to reports from Valparaiso, on the corner of Brasil and 12 Febrero Streets in that city demonstrators were evicted from the premises of the Catholic University on orders issued by a court. The police stated that 22 persons were arrested.

Private Sector Reports

PY1904025589 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpts] According to the private sector's preliminary evaluation of the strike organized by the CUT, activities in the large industry sector were practically normal, while in small and medium industry there was no absenteeism, according to leaders of the sector.

Also according to the various organizations of the private sector—the Confederation of Retail Merchants, the National Chamber of Commerce, and SIDECO [Professional Trade Union for Proprietors of Chilean Commercial Establishments]—the situation was normal, although a large number of stores closed early so their employees would be able to get home, it was said.

However, the commercial sector charged that normal activities had been affected to a certain degree due to power cuts in some sectors of the metropolitan area. These power cuts mainly affected restaurants, grill rooms, and butcher shops, which deal with perishable goods.

A few minutes ago Manuel Navarrete, president of the National Confederation of Bus Owners, issued a new report listing the incidents that affected the public transport sector. According to this report, four buses were set on fire and one driver was seriously injured. Navarrete also said that early this morning the circulation of buses had dropped by 20 to 25 percent.

Navarrate disclosed that the injured driver works on the Penalolen-Curicura-Pablo la Roca line, and that his condition is serious.

The union leader disclosed that four buses had been set on fire, but refrained from giving any details as to where this happened. He added that the tires and windows of hundreds of buses had also been damaged. Navarrete asserted that at this moment buses are having a hard time circulating. [passage omitted]

Navarrete urged Santiago citizens to get home as soon as possible because circulation is becoming increasingly difficult. [passage omitted]

Sources from the subway service reported that lines 1 and 2 are circulating normally and have not been affected by power cuts during the past few hours. [passage omitted]

A significant drop in the number of buses circulating along Jose Miguel Carrera Avenue in southern Santiago has been observed. A great number of people are walking home due to the shortage of buses at rush hour today.

Despite the call to strike, some supermarkets have remained open and so far we have spotted no incidents in the southern sector of Jose Miguel Carreras Avenue on this day of strike organized by the CUT, which is demanding the release of union leaders Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez, who are banished to Parral and Chanaral, respectively.

Incidents, Results Summarized

PY1904032389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0247 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Santiago, 18 Apr (EFE)—Two people died today in the northwestern sector of Santiago in a clash with security agents; 8 of the 13 Chilean regions are without electricity; and there were explosions in this capital.

These incidents marked the end of a general strike called by the opposition CUT to protest the banishment of the two main CUT leaders: Manuel Bustos and Arturo Martinez.

In accordance with an early police report, two civilians who were trying to plant a bomb were killed by agents of the National Intelligence Center (CNI, the Chilean secret political police).

A security agent was also wounded during the clash. The victims have not yet been identified.

Bomb explosions and shootings were heard in several sectors of Santiago.

The first blackout in Santiago occurred at 2114 local time (0114 GMT). This blackout affected an area ranging from the city of La Serena, 472 km north of Santiago, to Ancud, a township located 1,132 km southwest of Santiago.

Demonstrators erected barricades and built fires on some avenues around Santiago.

All these violent incidents overshadowed the "banging of pots and pans" that was heard in some sectors of Santiago, which was meant to be the closing act of the CUT-sponsored general strike, which was described as "satisfactory" by its organizers and as "a failure" by the military regime.

Ministers Deny Effectiveness of CUT Strike

Interior Minister Cited

PY1904011189 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Chilean Interior Minister Carlos Caceres today said that the country did not stop. The minister reported on the results of the strike called by the left-wing CUT. This is what the interior minister said:

[Begin Caceres recording] It is obvious that the country did not stop. This shows that the citizenry heeded the government's argument that there was no reason to strike because Chile is making progress economically and politically. Thus, the call to strike was an obvious incongruity in the face of the prevailing reality. [end recording]

The interior minister added that a few unfortunate acts of violence did take place, confirming what the government had anticipated: that the organizers of the strike would resort to violence and terrorism once they realized that the citizenry had refused to support them.

At the time of this newscast the government had not resorted to any special measures, but was merely watching developments.

The interior minister reiterated that the citizenry must understand that it has the entire support of not only the government but of the Carabineros and of all the branches of the Armed Forces who are there to preserve peace. Caceres stressed that the attitude of the citizenry was clearly different toward this strike as compared to other strikes.

In any case, the office of the minister secretary general of government will release on Wednesday, 19 April a complete report on the events that took place on 18 April.

Labor Minister: 'No Strike'

PY1904024789 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Labor Minister Guillermo Arthur has stated that there was no strike in Chile today. Therefore, he said, it is absurd to talk about success or failure, because there was no strike.

The minister made this statement, giving his personal opinion on the general strike organized by the CUT. The minister said:

[Begin Arthur recording] It was a complete flop as a strike. I don't think we can talk about success or failure, because there was no strike. In other words, it could not have been successful or a failure, because there simply was no such strike. One could talk about a failure if there had been a 50-percent paralyzation, but there was no such paralyzation. Therefore, I do not want to say whether it was a failure or not, because there was no such strike. [end recording]

The minister said that workers appeared as usual at their workplaces and that if they had any difficulties it was due to the terrorist attacks against public transport services.

[Begin Arthur recording] In my capacity as labor minister, I want to report that the workers are appearing at their workplaces as usual. However, it is not their fault if they have to leave work earlier, because public transport is planning to suspend service earlier due to terrorist attacks. It has been the workers' desire to carry out their activities normally. I have no doubts there will be cases of vandalism because, as we have predicted and as has been proved, these calls to strike have only allowed extremists to perpetrate acts of vandalism. [end recording]

Minister Arthur stated that although the CUT has asserted the peaceful nature of the call to strike, it has resulted in outrageous acts being perpetrated by various sectors.

The minister added that it is the Interior Ministry's duty to safeguard the citizenry and that it is not up to the Labor Ministry to take any legal actions against the organizers of the strike.

Junior Officers Issue Pro-Pinochet Communique

PY1804155689 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] In response to statements made by opposition politicians, junior Chilean Army officers have released the following communique:

1) In view of the smear campaign and attacks against His Excellency, the president of the Republic, Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, who is Army comander in chief, the Army Public Relations Office has informed the country that the Armed Forces fully support the task undertaken by Pinochet both as president and as a member of the military.

2) Due to this legitimate support, well-known opposition politicians have reacted in the wrong way, emphatically indicating that they in no way agreed with that viewpoint. They even made statements to the media awkwardly hinting that there are two Pinochets: one as president of the Republic, the other as commander in chief.

3) Augusto Pinochet Ugarte is one person only and the junior Chilean Army officers say: That's enough. We will not allow this smear campaign to continue against the man who has devoted himself to the sacred cause of the fatherland and who has endured attacks against his family to save us from the dictatorship of communism on the glorious day of 11 September 1973. He has endured such vile actions as the violation of his parents' grave and cowardly attacks like the one perpetrated against him at El Cajon del Maipo, where five of our comrades in arms died.

4) His Excellency the president of the Republic and Army commander in chief bequeaths to Chile a fatherland free from the scourge of communism, a fully developing country with a strong economy. The president bequeaths to the Armed Forces the clear and defined position of permanently safeguarding the security of the nation both inside and outside the country.

5) We support dialogue and participation in government affairs because we are not narrow-minded. We will decisively struggle to prevent another Marxist government in Chile like Allende's regime, which proved disastrous for Chile.

6) We have not forgotten that the Christian Democrats paved the way for the Popular Unity to gain power—Frei, querenchismo 1964 [expression unknown]—and we have the impression that another Allende is just over the horizon.

7) Messrs politicians: We remind you that people like you will be the only ones responsible for the peaceful transition to democracy, as the government and most Chileans wish. We reiterate that the only way to reach national unity is by doing away with hatred, personal ambition, and by practicing fair respect for our fellow countrymen and our governors.

PCCh Leaders Discuss Internal Disagreements

PY1704210089 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0834 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 16 Apr (EFE)—An important leader of the Chilean Communist Party [PCCh] has told EFE there have been disagreements within the PCCh in the last few months.

A group of PCCh leaders has undertaken an ever-increasing "aggiornamento" [preceding word in English] campaign within the party, which has turned into a domestic and private campaign similar to perestroyka and glasnost.

This campaign marks an important milestone in Chilean politics, especially within the PCCh, the second-largest party in the world [as received] as far as number of members is concerned. The PCCh has traditionally been regarded as one of the most orthodox parties and maybe the most reliable supporter of Soviet principles.

Based on the PCCh internal changes and the public debate of them, Chilean political observers will now have to analyze the problems of the PCCh and their scope, which thus far are completely unknown.

The ever-increasing public statements of this group of PCCh leaders indicate that the PCCh leadership has made mistakes and that some Communists were moved by the pope's visit to Chile in 1987. They also announced that they will support any candidate proposed by the opposition for the presidential elections.

Former Senator Alejandro Toro, former PCCh spokesman Patricio Hales, and former Popular Democratic Movement spokesman Camilo Cepeda head the group that supports the new position set forward at the 15th PCCh Congress, which began in 1988 and is expected to end early in May.

Cepeda told EFE that the PCCh, "maybe due to the suffering caused by dictatorship," has accepted the validity of all forms of struggle, which leads to the acceptance of violence as a political method and which has in turn led to "erroneous expressions and behavior."

Cepeda said that most PCCh members think that the PCCh leadership in the last few years "has not been efficient, and that big mistakes have been made."

Cepeda stated: "We, the Communists, made mistakes in the plebiscite (which the opposition won in October 1988), because rather than announce that our grass roots would not register at the electoral court (they finally registered) and support all ways of struggle against the dictatorship, we should have admitted that the electoral system represents a historical way to continue the Chilean people's rebellion."

Cepeda added that "there have been great mistakes, because on many occasions the PCCh leadership did not realize that it has acted behind the masses' backs and without their participation" when it resorted to violence.

Concerning the activities of the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR], which is regarded by the military regime as the PCCh's armed branch, Cepeda said "it is regrettable that the PCCh leadership has supported the activities of some youths instead of giving them the opportunity to join all Chilean democratic forces in the political struggle."

Former Senator Toro, a PCCh member of 40 years, stressed the need to accept the changes that are taking place in the USSR, because "just as capitalism learns from the socialism, the latter learns from the former."

Toro has publicly stated that from the viewpoint of Marxist humanism and Christian morale, "there is a great unity of ideas and objectives, because both are struggling for the happiness of man."

Toro added that the task undertaken by the Catholic Church should be acknowledged: "How may lives has the church saved during these difficult years? How many lessons have we learned from the Church?"

Toro is extensive in his praise of the Catholic Church. He admitted that "he followed the pope's visit to Chile with pleasure and emotion, adding that for millions of people this event represented a true plebiscite because people applauded when John Paul II supported freedom, justice, and human rights." [quotation marks as received]

Meanwhile, Hales referred to a delicate issue that should be analyzed within the Chilean left: the ousting of the late President Salvador Allende.

Hales said: "Many PCCh members do not agree with the PCCh argument that Allende's regime was ousted because it lacked weapons." "In my opinion," Hales said, "we lacked the capability to create alliances. I am convinced that Chile would have been different if in 1970 (when Allende came to power) we had had the capability for dialogue."

Hales added that the Communists have made mistakes. For example: forgetting "its historical capacity to lead the workers," which resulted in support for a system that paved the way to violence. The Communists "have mistakenly believed that the people would support violence."

Hales said that the wrong leadership was based on "wrong diagnoses that led to mistaken policies," because the people's decision to reaffirm the popular rebellion does not reveal that they support "terrorist activities."

Hales added: "The next government should be supported even though it will not be a socialist one. We will not oppose any candidate in order to defeat Pinochetism."

Hales concluded by saying that the new PCCh leadership "should be able to correct prevous mistakes and accept the changes prevailing within Chilean society in order to correctly face the challenge of the transition," especially

through a "rapprochement" with other democratic parties in order to reach agreements that can assure stability for the upcoming democracy.

On 13 April, the new PCCh spokesmen noted that any statements that Hales may make are "exclusively personal."

Some PCCh leaders say that the election of the new PCCh secretary general, which will be made known in less than a month, will not indicate the victory of any sector but rather the possible adoption of a temporary solution, because there are persistent rumours that a new congress will be called next year to definitively resolve the controversy.

Sociologists Group on Arrested Students

PY1804011289 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The Sociologists Association has publicly voiced its concern over students Aldo Gonzalez and Carlos Lopez, who were arrested more than 1 week ago and who are being held incommunicado. No charges have been filed yet against the two sociology students from the Higher Institute of Arts and Social Science.

The association has voiced its concern over the respect for the students' legal rights and physical integrity since—it states—everyone knows about previous cases in which arrested persons who, after being accused and tortured, are later released due to lack of evidence.

Colombia

ELN Kidnaps Opposition Congressman, Mayor

PA1604041589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2136 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Bogota, 15 Apr (REUTER)—An opposition congressman, Pastor Nino Villamizar, and a mayor, Hernando Prada, were kidnapped within the last few hours by National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas in Santander Department. Meanwhile, the authorities today urged politicians and government officials to adopt measures to prevent a wave of political kidnappings.

The pro-Castro ELN guerrillas issued a communique noting that the kidnappings are meant to send a message to the government and that the lives of the hostages will be respected.

Nino Villamizar was kidnapped near Bucaramanga, the capital of Santander, in the north of the country, while traveling in his car.

One of the persons traveling with the congressman was set free to report that the purpose of the kidnapping is to publicize some guerrilla proposals on the humanization of the war and the elimination of the dirty war issues.

Prada was kidnapped this past Friday under similar circumstances, but the authorities did not learn of the incident until early Saturday morning.

The ELN, which is known for its attacks against multinational oil companies and the country's oil pipelines, set free this past Monday two congressmen and two journalists who had been kidnapped between December of last year and March of this year.

Congressman Released

PA1804130389 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Bogota—The ELN guerrilla group has released Conservative Congressman Pastor Nino with a message to the Colombian Government regarding the current peace process. The Norte de Santander Department congressman had been kidnapped by an ELN subversive group near Cachira Municipality, Norte de Santander Department, hours after [words indistinct] had been released. The ELN gave the two congressmen [words indistinct] messages for the government in which it explained its position in light of the [word indistinct] peace plans. Likewise, representative Nino was also used to deliver a message in which the group states its views regarding the peace process.

Congressman Pastor Nino was kidnapped on Friday and released a few hours ago in Norte de Santander Department.

Legislator Reportedly Leading FARC Units

PA1604152489 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 11 Apr 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] The news did not surprise anybody. A Popular Unity lawmaker decided once and for all to return to the mountains and now wants to recover the Middle Magdalena area after the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] lost this "turf." It was taken from the FARC the same way the FARC took it. This information is in a confidential report that was delivered to Army Commander Nelson Mejia Henao on 7 February.

According to this report, Carlos Enrique Cardona, a member of the House of Representatives better known as Braulio Herrera or Alonso, is directing the military activities of the FARC's 9th, 11th, 12th, 22d, 23d, and 24th fronts.

The document says that Cardona's objectives include attacks on Army and police patrols, kidnappings, and extortion. In addition, the legislator wants to control the emerald-producing areas of Boyaca Department and recruit new guerrilla members.

According to investigations, Herrera's headquarters is near Landazuri, where a meeting of the FARC top commands was supposed to be held.

The reports also indicate that Herrera has been in command of 600 men since September 1988.

The military intelligence report—no 0658-G2 Int 259—*points out* that Braulio's goal is to obtain with weapons what he did not obtain politically.

The report was confirmed by Rodrigo Alonso Gallejo, police inspector in Puerto Olaya, who said that a FARC front is active in the region and that it is commanded by the lawmaker.

First Quarter Foreign Investments Increase
PA1804231189 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish
15 Apr 89 p 7-B

[Summary] Foreign investments in Colombia increased in the 1st quarter of the year to $106.4 million, 140 percent higher than the figure reported during the same period last year, which was $44.3 million.

The considerable increase is due to the $52.7 million that Renault of France paid for all the shares the IFI [Industrial Development Institute] had at the Sofasa vehicle assembly plant.

Among the countries that increased their investments were France, which led with 50.8 percent, Switzerland, with 28.9 percent, and the United States, with 10.5 percent.

Tinplate Exported to Cuba, Panama, Ecuador
PA1504184589 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish
8 Apr 89 p 6-B

[Summary] Although there are no formal diplomatic relations with Cuba, Colombia sells coffee, cotton, and iron and steel products to that country. Pablo Pelaez Gonzalez, president of the company Hojalata y Laminados, Holasa, said that in March his company exported 3,520 tons of tinplate to Cuba, the largest Colombian shipment to Cuba so far. He added that an additional 1,220 tons of tinplate are being produced for shipment to Cuba in April.

During the 2d half of this year, another 2,500 tons of tinplate will be exported to Cuba, Panama, and Ecuador. Pelaez Gonzalez said that in 1989 Holosa's production capacity will increase from 65,000 tons a year to 80,000 tons a year.

Paraguay

Colorado Leader on Communist Party Legalization
PY1704192889 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish
15 Apr 89 p 3

[Text] Edgar L. Ynsfran, Colorado Party second vice president, has said he favors the legalization of the Communist Party so it "will operate in the open." He added, however, that he did not know if the issue has to be taken up by a national constituent assembly or if the government could decide the issue on its own.

"I do not know what the Constitution says about this topic. I think the Constitution bans all totalitarian parties, and the Communist Party has long been considered totalitarian for its links to the CPSU," Ynsfran said.

Ynsfran said that Communists probably operate in the country "not clandestinely, but through other organizations or in ways that are not entirely public or legal since their party is banned. I sincerely believe that the circumstances today are different because of the democratic opening. The Communist Party does not scare anyone anymore."

Ynsfran said that communism is retreating in Europe. "The CPSU has launched a democratic campaign of sorts through Gorbachev: perestroyka and glasnost. The Communist Party today no longer scares anyone. Their past activities in the country were something else. Even today we are scared when someone says 'they are Communists' because of our historic experience."

"The Communist Party was Stroessner's crutch. Of course, the scare is also linked to the 1947 revolution and the issue of the guerrillas. The guerrilla movement then [in the late 1950's] had the support of the Communist Party through a movement called FULNA, the National Liberation United Front. Then we also had the '14 de Mayo' movement," Ynsfran said.

Ynsfran said that these incidents worked against the image of the Communist Party.

"Maybe many of them are wicked. Many Liberal Party members might also be wicked, or angels. We are part of a society in which we are not the angels."

"This is why I favor the legalization of the Communist Party. If they have a legal-political status, they will operate in the open," Ynsfran said.

Ynsfran concluded by saying that the Communist Party had a good share of the responsibility for the troubles in the 1946 opening that led to the 1947 revolution.

Concepcion Bishop Denounces Arrest of Squatters
PY1804041689 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
16 Apr 89 p 23

[Excerpts] Concepcion Bishop Msgr Anibal Maricevich has issued a communique referring to an incident that took place in Arroyito, 80 km from Concepcion, which affected some 1,000 peasant families. The bishop's communique states: "A pitiful situation is affecting many northern peasant families in the neglected zone of Concepcion, at this time when new breezes of freedom, democracy, and respect for the people's dignity are felt in our country. On Thursday, 13 April, 20 peasants who

had peacefully occupied some land belonging to the Union Paraguaya enterprise were arrested by military forces stationed in Concepcion.

"Briefly reviewing the development, we must point out that on the night of 12 April, approximately 1,300 men peacefully occupied some land belonging to the Union Paraguaya enterprise in Arroyito, some 80 km from Concepcion. The Union Paraguaya owns thousands and thousands of hectares of unexploited land in this zone." [passage omitted]

The document goes on to say that "nobody backs these squatters. Neither communists nor politicians are by any means responsible for the peasants' decision. They acted in despair and out of a desire to have their own land. It was their own decision. Their leaders are mature people who are aware of the decision they took and are responsible for it. They adopted this decision after knocking on every possible door—doors that were slammed in their faces, one by one." [passage omitted]

New Conditions for Paying Debt to Brazil

PY1804040489 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Apr 89 p 13

[Text] The Paraguayan Government has obtained from Brazil a new period and new conditions to pay its $436-million debt. The documents were signed this morning at Lopez Palace at a ceremony held in the presence of Provisional President Andres Rodriguez and other officials. The agreement was signed by Brazilian Central Bank President Elmo de Araujo Camoes and his Paraguayan counterpart, Crispiniano Sandoval.

The new conditions for payment of the Paraguayan debt to Brazil were formalized this morning at a ceremony held at Lopez Palace, during which the document for the renegotiation of the debt contracted by Paraguay was signed. Present at the ceremony were Provisional President General Andres Rodriguez, Brazilian Central Bank President Elmo de Araujo Camoes, Bank of Brazil officials, Brazilian Ambassador in Asuncion Orlando Soares Carbonar, and other officials.

The lengthy document, containing the new guidelines for the payment of the debt, was signed by Paraguayan Central Bank President Crispiniano Sandoval and his Brazilian counterpart, Elmo de Araujo Camoes.

The agreement for the renegotiation of the $436-million debt to Brazil includes a new payment period of 20 years plus 8 years of grace, the adoption of the LIBOR [London Interbank Offered Rate] rate for the payment of interest, and the possibility of reducing the amount through discounts for the purchase in the foreign market of Brazilian foreign debt bonds.

Sandoval stated: "The new idea in the agreement for restructuring the payment of the Paraguayan debt to Brazil is the option given to Paraguay to exchange Brazilian foreign debt bonds for Paraguayan debt bonds, with which the payment of the debt becomes more *flexible and with which a financial balance* between the two countries becomes more feasible."

He added: "Each payment of the Paraguayan debt through the system of exchanging bonds will doubly reduce the overall debt of Latin American countries, because two debt bonds will be paid at the same time: one bond of the Paraguayan foreign debt and another bond of the Brazilian foreign debt."

Sandoval said that "the conclusions and the preparation of the agreement for restructuring the debt have demanded a painstaking study and analysis by Paraguayan and Brazilian Central Bank technicians, who have employed all their experience, knowledge, and goodwill to prepare a creative debt payment system that will be beneficial for the two countries."

Camoes stated that "the agreement that was signed, which is political to the extent that it reaffirms the Paraguayan and Brazilian desire for greater integration within Latin America, also reflects a market solution, taking advantage of the favorable conditions for the benefit of the two countries. This agreement shows the technique, the creativity, and the effectiveness of these two countries."

It is appropriate to mention that the Bank of Brazil was represented at the ceremony today by Antony de Nardi Ferraz and Marcos Antonio de Mato Reis, general manager and manager, respectively, of the Bank of Brazil branch office in Asuncion.

Government Expands Public Administration Budget

PY1704193289 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 15 Apr 89 p 11

[Text] The Foreign Ministry was granted 143.5 percent in additional resources in the expanded general budget of the nation that was approved yesterday, while the Industry and Commerce Ministry was granted only 13.3 percent.

The ministries that received greater allocations of additional resources are the Finance Ministry, 42.6 percent; the National Defense Ministry, 33.4 percent; the Public Works and Communications Ministry, 24.2 percent; the Education and Worship Ministry, 22.6 percent; the Public Health Ministry, 18.8 percent; the Agriculture and Livestock Ministry, 17.1 percent; the Justice and Labor Ministry, 16.4 percent; and the Interior Ministry, 16.0 percent.

With the expansion of the nation's general budget, allocations to the Central Administration and the Asuncion National University increased from 386,995,717,460 guaranies to 516,475,203,262, and expenditures increased from 386,832,354,932 to 494,264,900,000 guaranies.

Peru

Shining Path Reportedly Kills Austrian Newsman

PY1804164589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1422 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Lima, 18 Apr (EFE)—The Lima newspaper LA REPUBLICA today reported that alleged members of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla group have killed Austrian journalist Joseph Piescher.

Piescher's body was left on a road near the town of Yarinacocha, east of the city of Pucallpa, capital of the jungle department of Ucayali, northeast of Lima.

A local radio station received a call from an alleged Shining Path terrorist who said that he had killed the journalist because "he was a CIA agent sent to carry out antisubversive activities."

According to LA REPUBLICA, 1 week ago Piescher was installed as press and information director of the Amazona River Support Project, an organization implementing health programs in the Ucayali Department.

Piescher's body was found early yesterday. He had been shot in the head, had his hands tied behind his back, and there were indications of torture on the body.

Piescher's murder was reported to the Austrian Embassy in Lima. This is the first time Shining Path terrorists have killed a foreign journalist.

Meanwhile, the bodies of two other people were found in Pucallpa neighborhood. The bodies belong to two brothers who were shot in the head by unidentified individuals last Sunday.

Shining Path Kidnaps, Releases Journalists

PY1704205389 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1609 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Lima, 17 Apr (TELAM-ANSA)—A local press source today reported that members of a column of the Shining Path terrorist organization have kidnapped two Argentine journalists. They are correspondents of the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK and they were kidnapped in order to provide them with information.

The Lima newspaper LA OPINION has identified the journalists as William Gentilie and Joseph Contreras, who were reportedly kidnapped in the troubled area of Alto Huallaga, where bloody clashes between policemen and terrorists have taken place.

The newspaper reports that both journalists have since returned to their country following their experience with the alleged Shining Path subversive group.

LA OPINION indicates that no journalist has been able to interview the political or military leaders of the Shining Path subversive group since it began its operations.

LA OPINION states that information is sometimes released by supporters of the Shining Path terrorist group, who, on instructions of the leadership of this subversive group, fail to respect the order "to maintain a tactical silence."

Other "informers" charge for their interviews and statements which many times contradict the principles of the Shining Path terrorist organization headed by Manuel Ruben Guzman Reynoso, known as "President Gonzalo."

Garcia Signs Decree on Municipal Elections

PY1704214889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] This is a last-minute report released by the Executive Branch. A presidential decree establishes that:

In accordance with Article 7 of Law No 14669, the municipal councils will be changed every 3 years. Thus, elections will be held on the 2d Sunday of November 1989. The installation ceremony will be held on 1 January 1990.

In accordance with Article 1 of Law 23671, the president of the Republic calls for elections of municipal mayors and councilmen 6 months before the date they were to be held, and in accordance with the powers entrusted to him by Clause 5 of Article 211 of the national Constitution, he resolves:

Article 1. Elections will be held for mayors and councilmen of provincial and district councils throughout the nation on Sunday, 12 November 1989.

Article 2. These elections will be held in accordance with Article 253 of the national Constitution, and in accordance with Laws No 14250 and 14669 and their amendments.

Article 3. This decree will be approved by the president of the Council of Ministers and the interior minister.

[Signed] Government House, 17 April 1989.

Electrification Program With Bolivia Begins

PY1504161189 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] The first stage of a Bolivian-Peruvian electrification program has been completed in the border towns of Yunguyo and Desaguadero, in Puno, which will be fed with power generated in Bolivia. The program, which will benefit thousands of people, has been agreed upon through an accord signed by Electroperu [Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise] and the Bolivian National Power Company. Under the terms of the accord, electric power will be supplied to more than 60 border towns with populations above 30,000.

Correction to Villanueva on Coup Possibility

PY1804125289

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Villanueva Cited on Politics, Coup Possibility," published in the 18 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 37:

Column two, paragraph three, sentence one should read: Minister, since the congressional meeting with the cabinet... (supplying dropped word "congressional")

Column two, paragraph four, sentence one should read: ...because I do not want to think... (supplying dropped word "not")

Uruguay

Sanguinetti Comments on Recent Plebiscite

PY1804035689 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] This morning Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti held a news conference for national and foreign journalists at the main hall of the Libertad Building. The news conference focused on the result of the recent plebiscite.

President Sanguinetti stated that the result of the plebiscite is the strengthening of democratic institutions. He added that the transition to democracy in Uruguay ended when the polling stations closed. He also said that the people had voted for peace.

On the future of Uruguay, Sanguinetti said that the political leaders must start thinking about their future actions. He emphasized that the solution chosen by the Uruguayan people was the best way to tell military officers and terrorists who long for the past that there is a deep-running democratic feeling and a sense of moderation in the country. He reaffirmed that the result of the plebiscite on 16 April did not imply a pardon for the outrages perpetrated during the de facto regime, but merely permitted the coexistence in the country of the political leaders who had encouraged guerrilla actions and the military officers who supported the coup d'etat.

Asked about the message that he would like to convey to Argentina and Chile in the wake of the recent plebiscite, President Sanguinetti said:

[Begin Sanguinetti recording] The message from the Uruguayan people that I would like to convey to the people of Argentina and Chile is that they should have hope and faith in democracy. Each people must choose its course in keeping with their historical background.

The path that Argentina has chosen is in keeping with the historical circumstances that prevail there, and the same applies to Chile and to Uruguay.

The people of Uruguay have always forgiven, beginning with our independence-seeking revolution. Uruguayan history does not record a single conflict that was not followed by a generous amnesty law, a pardon.

Many of our conflicts were severe and bloody [words indistinct] democracy became cordial. The important thing is that no one is entitled to lecture anyone. We Uruguayans have never accepted lessons from abroad about the course we should choose. [end recording]

Venezuela

President Perez on Economic Situation

PM1804103689 Paris LIBERATION in French 12 Apr 89 p 20

[Interview with President Carlos Andrés Perez by Gerard Thomas in Caracas—date not given]

[Text] LIBERATION: After the riots on 27 February, are you still prepared to impose an unpopular economic program?

Carlos Andres Perez: The economic adjustment program which I adopted was necessary: If I had not taken those measures, inflation would have caused serious damage and we would no longer have any foreign currency with which to finance our imports. When I took office in early February, there were no foreign currency reserves in the state's coffers. I had to take that action.

The disarray which has seized the country is clearly illustrated by an opinion poll carried out after the events: 73 percent of Venezuelans think that the economic adjustment measures introduced are bad but, paradoxically, 51 percent of those questioned think that the situation will improve, and 68 percent still have confidence in me. My leadership continues despite this explosion of despair caused by hunger and unemployment. This paradox proves that the Venezuelans know deep down inside that there was no other solution. But, I am aware that the people are frustrated, and unless we find a solution, the government could collapse. Whatever we do, everything is linked to the debt problem.

LIBERATION: Faced with the scale of the disturbances, the severity of the repression, and the number of victims, were you worried about Venezuelan democracy?

Carlos Andres Perez: This is a warning to the industrialized world: The impatience and irritation felt by our working classes have reached extremes. It is important to think carefully: Either we solve these problems, or Latin America may revert to authoritarian regimes. In this sense, I am afraid for democracy, not only in Venezuela, but also throughout Latin America. I stated that clearly to President Bush when I met with him in Washington: If we want democracy on this continent, it is vital for the industrialized countries to help us carry through the necessary economic reforms which we are prepared to implement.

LIBERATION: Did U.S. President George Bush give you assurances about a reduction in the Venezuelan foreign debt, which is estimated to be $33 billion?

Carlos Andres Perez: It may be the result of the recent troubles which my country has experienced, but I found President Bush, Secretary of State Jim Baker, and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady really concerned about

the Latin American debt problem. They want to reduce it in accordance with the economic situation of the different countries concerned. As regards Venezuela, we are trying to obtain a reduction of between 40 and 50 percent in the total capital. However, I am still convinced that if the debtor countries do not unite their forces to negotiate, bilateral solutions will be incomplete.

LIBERATION: The Brady plan does not have unanimous support from the lending banks or the debtor countries....

Carlos Andres Perez: The Brady plan (put forward on 10 March—LIBERATION editor's note) is based on an idea which has unanimous support from the debtor countries—the need for a substantial reduction in the debt. What this plan lacks are the means of implementing it. We are now continuing the negotiations, and I advocate the total redemption of the debt by the World Bank and the IMF at the secondary market price. The idea supported by the industrialized countries, the IMF, and the Brady Plan is different.

LIBERATION: What position will Venezuela take at the OPEC ministerial conference on 5 June with regard to increasing the production ceiling, and increasing oil prices?

Carlos Andres Perez: I believe that OPEC learned an important lesson throughout the eighties, and that we will approach the next decade with a much more reasonable position. In recent years, OPEC has turned into a mere cartel of oil-producing countries whose only interest is prices and competition—forgetting that in the seventies the organization was a tool in the struggle for a new internationa! economic order. That produced oil price increases which led to crisis. We are now trying to increase prices to a level which is satisfactory for the producers, while preventing them from becoming a deterrent for consumers again.

LIBERATION: Do you think that Mikhail Gorbachev's recent visit to Cuba will breathe the wind of restructuring into the Havana government?

Carlos Andres Perez: The negotiations which have taken place between the superpowers herald an era of peace which will be important for the developing countries. Regional conflicts have been solved or are being solved in Africa and in Asia. They will also be solved in Latin America. As regards Cuba, there has never been a better time for bringing it back into the Latin American family. I also think that Gorbachev's visit will have a great influence on a rapid settlement of the Central American crisis.

LIBERATION: Will the new leaders who will come to power in Latin America this year follow you in the sphere of Latin American solidarity?

Carlos Andres Perez: Certainly. The crisis which we are experiencing initially produced national egoism. We have now realized that we have gained nothing by discussing individual cases, as the industrialized countries recommend. We are busy uniting.

Judge Bans 30 People From Leaving Country

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[Text] Judge Luis Guillermo La Riva Lopez, 34th Lower Court criminal judge, has banned 30 people from leaving the country while investigations on irregularities allegedly committed at the Differential Exchange System [RECADI] are under way.

Judge La Riva announced his decision to prosecutors Ana Maria Padilla and Jose Gregorio Rodriguez and stressed this does not imply those affected by the ban are responsible for such irregularities; all we want is that they testify at court to determine who is to blame for the charges being investigated at RECADI, the judge explained.

Although he refused to reveal names, we learned the ban affects representatives of the following imports price control [verificadoras] companies: S.G.S. [Societe Generale de Surveillance] of Venezuela, (Richard Gauthier), (Caleb Brett), (Rene Villat), (Buleau Verita) and (Dominique Ledenmat); and former top officials: former RECADI Director Francisco Maldonado Cisneros, former Deputy Finance Minister Jorge Garcia Duque, former RECADI Director Edgalia Bastardo de Leandro, Ana Teresa Herrera, and others.

Prosecutor Ana Maria Padilla believes this decision will expedite the investigation:

[Begin Padilla recording] This is a good decision from that standpoint; it does not mean people banned from leaving the country are in fact involved in the charges being investigated. However, there is a presumption, because they know about the matter under investigation or because they have something to do with it. This ban from leaving the country could be suspended or lifted in the future. [end recording]

Prosecutor Jose Gregorio Rodriguez commented on a meeting of Caracas superior court judges on 18 April called by Dr Luis Manuel Pallis to study the possible appointment of a special government attorney. The prosecutor believes Judge la Riva has made much progress within the investigation and that turning it over to another judge, who must become familiar with the case, would delay the investigation:

[Begin Rodriguez recording] We have been working very intensely with him in the past few days and have become close during this investigation. That would be regrettable to change, because Dr la Riva is widely recognized for his honesty and is working as diligently and seriously as possible. [end recording]

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